

February 13, 2023

RE: Support Letter for HB 1537

Greetings Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Raychel Perman from Bismarck, ND. I am a local business owner, active community member, and a mother of three.

I strongly support HB1537 and its desire create and enact a new section to chapter 54-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the data collection and reporting of bias crimes. One of my children and many of their friends are part of the LGBTQIA+ community and Indigenous, as well. These children deserve to grow up protected by peace officer who know how to handle bias based and hate crimes.

Everyone deserved to live in a state that protects the most vulnerable. Hate based crime affects not only the person but the families and community they represent. They need your support just like the people in our neighboring states who have already based effective laws. North Dakota should not be known as one of only five states who don't care enough to pass laws that collect and report bias based crimes.

As a mom, business owner, and long time ND resident, I strongly ask you to support adding the proposed new sections to HB 1537. Let's keep North Dakota... nice.

Sincerely,

~Raychel Perman

Bismarck, ND