

Dear Senators, I am writing in favor of HB 1537. I ask that you give this bill a Do Pass.

I think it is very important to include a course of instruction and ongoing training in identifying and responding to bias crimes and agree with the addition of 12.1-17-02. Aggravated assault additional point e., and including a collection of bias crime information report.

I firmly believe that collecting this information for public reporting while providing continued training in efforts to better protect potential victims of bias crimes due to a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry better protects all North Dakotans.

I firmly believe HB 1537 would have a positive impact in communities across North Dakota as we continue to work towards positive growth and change as a state.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the committee to vote DO PASS on HB 1537.