

## North Dakota Knife Law Reform HB1479

Mr. Chairman , members of the committee my name is Todd Rathner and I represent Knife Rights a national organization of knife owners, collectors, makers and manufacturers. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in strong support of HB1479.

Knife Rights has worked over the past decade to reform the knife laws in 26 states, passing 40 separate bills to get it done. Every one of these bills was passed in a bipartisan manner and not one state has moved to repeal any of these laws.

One of the reasons that these reforms have been so popular is because people from all walks of life, carry a knife every single day as a tool to accomplish all types of tasks, whether it's on a farm or ranch, grocery store, or in the kitchen of a restaurant, everyone uses a knife. Folks who carry a knife everyday should not have to be in fear of arrest because they concealed a tool they use for everyday tasks. Currently your constituents could be carrying a knife to hunt or fish, or to open boxes at work and be in violation of the law if they put that tool in their pocket, or put a sweater on. That shouldn't be the case.

Let me reiterate what HB1479 will NOT do. It will NOT prevent the state from prosecuting aggravated assault with a knife under your current laws. They would remain unchanged. HB1479 would simply allow folks who can already carry a firearm concealed, to carry their everyday knife concealed as well.

The second major feature of HB1479 is the preemption of local ordinances. This is important because in other states where we have passed knife law reform without preemption we have seen local jurisdictions pass ordinances essentially undoing what the legislature just did. We had to go back and work to pass preemption in those states. The preemption section would assure uniformity of the law throughout the state making it easier to understand, as well as enforce.

It is for these reasons I urge you to vote to recommend passage of HB1479. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today, and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.