

LINDSEY COURTNEY

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Dear Committee Members:

I am reaching out to you as a parent, former educator at Oakes Public School, and community member. I am writing today to voice my support for the passage of HB 1246 relating to traffic-controlled devices.

HB 1246 would prevent the only stoplight in the Oakes community from being removed. This stoplight causes traffic to stop at the intersection of ND HWY 1, a highway that is the main traffic route through our town and Main Avenue, the street providing access to the business hub of Oakes.

The removal of this stoplight would be detrimental to the safety and well-being of our community members, mainly our children, the lively hood of any ND community. The Oakes Public School is located at stoplight intersection, students currently utilize the crosswalks and the pedestrian crossing buttons while waiting for busy traffic to stop. The pedestrian crossing provides a safe route for students to safely come and leave school, access a gas station for snacks, a bookstore for studying, and a multitude of other businesses located on our thriving Main Avenue. Additionally, located less than 500 ft from the stoplight is a daycare center, Tiny Tornadoes, and a preschool/daycare, Moving Mountains Learning Center. These childcare facilities travel across the highway, relying on the stoplight and pedestrian crossing to allow their safe passage on a very busy road to access local parks and the swimming pool. During the summer, the pedestrian crossing allows children, teens, and families to safely cross the road, via foot and bike, to access the softball complex on the west side of town and the pool on the east side of town.

As a teacher, I have waited with students and walked them across the street utilizing the crosswalk and stop light. I have also crossed ND HWY 1 with my students and my children, where only crosswalks are located. During these instances we often wait for extended periods of time

for speeding traffic to stop because there is no stoplight and pedestrian crossing to use anywhere else along the highway.

Whether driving to work at school, running errands in town, or taking a trip to the pool, there are always children waiting for traffic to stop and allow them to safely cross the road along ND HWY 1 and mainly at the stoplight and pedestrian crossing because of the safe route it supplies. Removal of the stoplight inhibits the safety of the beloved children in our community and provides ample opportunity for tragedy to strike our close-knit town. I urge you to give HB 1246 unanimous support for a do pass recommendation to ensure the removal of our stoplight does not happen and our children and community members can continue to safely access many amenities within Oakes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Courtney