

Senate Human Services
Chair Committee Members

HB 1447 Oppose– Encourage Amendment

The Downtown Business Association of Bismarck represents over 200 members with 9,000 employees in North Dakota's second largest employment district. HB 1447 could restrict the opioid settlement funds or divert them away from local programs, this would limit our ability to continue our Better Bismarck.



Community leaders, business leaders and service providers in Bismarck have recently launched our Better Bismarck Campaign fundraising effort, used as a way for Bismarck to address some of the root causes of crisis homelessness: addiction and mental health. This legislation could take away from communities that have efforts and programs in place. We would be opposed to this loss of a local control option. A statewide fund could still be used for communities that do not have their own programs in place.

We encourage DO NOT PASS as is, or an amendment to allow Bismarck and other cities to continue to utilize settlement dollars for local programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Herzog".

Kate Herzog, COO
Chief Operating Officer
Downtown Business Association of Bismarck

President
Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation