

*Southwestern District
Health Unit*



PublicHealth
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1229

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Chairman Larsen and members of the Senate, Industry and Business Committee. Thank you for your time today.

My name is Jennifer Schaeffer, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator with the Southwestern District Health Unit. I am here to provide testimony and oppose for HB 1229.

This bill would severely change and undercut our North Dakota Smoke-Free Law. It would allow smoking or vaping indoors in other businesses and public places. The current ND Smoke Free law treats everyone equally and is good policy. Our office does receive the complaints of those that violate the current law, and we have to resolve those issues and complaints. This would most likely increase the number of complaints, because the majority of North Dakotans voted and expect that they would not be entering a business that allows smoking or anything combustible.

We held a Tobacco Compliance Check recently where the businesses that failed sold Cigars to our trained underage students. This shows us that youth are looking to what adults are using for tobacco products and would try cigars.

I encourage you to keep the North Dakota Smoke Free law as is.

Thank you,
Jennifer Schaeffer -NCTTP