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SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER

To: Transportation Committee Members
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
Date: March 1, 2023
RE: HB 1295

Dear Transportation Committee members,

My name is Andy Schneider, and I have the privilege of being the Sheriff of Grand Forks County. I am providing testimony regarding why I am opposed to HB 1295 in regard to public safety.

- Removing the requirement to have a front license plate will provide a significant disadvantage to law enforcement officers in our state when attempting to reduce criminal activity or apprehend suspected or convicted criminals.
- In our desolate state, officers utilize the front plate every single day to provide a safer community and state to live in.
- Often times victims of criminal activity are able to provide a description of a vehicle with the license plate numbers obtained off the front of the vehicle. The front plate is less likely to be obstructed and is more easily observed in most instances.
 - These instances include hit and runs, stolen vehicles, felonious criminal activity, gas theft and other thefts from residential and commercial sites, Amber alerts, kidnappings, and assault on a peace officer to name a few.
- One example of a front plate locating a federally sought criminal. A Grand Forks County deputy was responding to a theft from a firearm store and ran a front plate. That plate was eventually linked to the break in of this store and of another gun store and the subject was able to be identified and charged for multiple federal offenses.
- Removing the front plate requirement will result in a decrease of criminal offenses being solved in our state and will increase the number of criminals and criminal activity.
- There are very few models of vehicles that do not allow for a front plate mount, and it is not common to see those vehicles in North Dakota.

I appreciate your 'do not pass' vote for HB 1295 as it presents safety concerns for your families, our residents, visitors, and law enforcement officers.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration today. I am available at any time of day or night to further discuss this important bill with any and all of you.

Andy Schneider
Sheriff
Grand Forks County
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