

I am Charles L. Steinberger, and I am an attorney in Bismarck. I am a graduate from Kenmare, North Dakota and I Support HB 1479. During middle school, I took North Dakota history as a class. My teacher made us review the North Dakota Constitution. We understood little to nothing about it. We knew that the U.S. Constitution was the law of the land, however we did not think to put much effort into understanding a document not many folks in our community seemed interested in.

My view of the North Dakota Constitution has drastically changed. As an attorney, the North Dakota Constitution is a key document for understanding how and why North Dakota law has adjusted over the past century. I see the importance of celebrating the day it was enacted to push schools to have a legal professional talk about the importance of the document. I know my high school classmates chose careers based on guest speakers or by attending local career and technical events. Thus, having a day to celebrate the North Dakota Constitution would give schools the opportunity to have a legislator, attorney, or judge into the school to discuss this important document, which would open the door to North Dakota youth to seek out a legal career.

This simple bill will not only celebrate North Dakota's past, it could stem the tide in brain drain of our youth. There is a shortage of legal professionals in North Dakota. The shortage includes State's Attorneys, paralegals, attorneys, and other interrelated careers. By introducing North Dakota's students to the North Dakota Constitution and showing the importance of said document, more students may enter a legal profession and stay within the State. Conversations with legislators, judges, and even attorneys could assist in bringing more youth into this field and would build connections to rural areas where legal assistance is in extreme demand. During my time as a clerk for the North Dakota Supreme Court, I attended school visits with the Court. The conversations between the Court and Students brought the law to the students, but the Court opened

the conversation about how it works, how attorneys and the court system manage a case beyond the half-truths of TV and movies, and how the interworking's of North Dakota law is applied inside and outside the court room. This bill would move the discussion beyond the legislature and court room and open the discussion with the public to discuss the fundamental document that grounds all North Dakota law.

Youth apply as much importance to a document as we adults do. Thus, if this bill passes and we, as North Dakotans, start to celebrate our state's history; it is more likely the students will too. By implementing this bill, the Legislative branch has taken a step celebrate our history and protect our state's future.