

House Bill 1570
House Finance and Taxation Committee – Representative Craig Headland, Chair
February 12, 2025
Testimony in Support of HB 1570

Chairman Headland and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 1570. I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a concerned citizen, parent, and lifelong resident of Valley City, ND.

In the capitol's halls this winter, there has been much talk of government's intervening in various ways to protect the safety and welfare of our children and teenagers. But most of the proposed actions are entirely unproven and highly controversial.

In contrast, HB 1570 presents all lawmakers with a golden opportunity to get behind a youth-protective intervention that has long been proven effective.

That's because simply increasing North Dakota's tobacco tax assuredly will cause fewer kids to ever become addicted to the most-addictive and deadly substance that isn't illegal. The tax hike delineated in HB 1570 will also result in more adults deciding to quit. Furthermore, the salutary effects of this legislation will both reduce the state's healthcare costs AND generate new revenue that can be used to fund vital healthcare and disease-preventing work.

Scores of solid, peer-reviewed studies have proven the tremendous life-saving power of significant increases in tobacco taxes. I encourage this Committee to unanimously recommend "Do Pass" for HB 1570.

Thank you for your consideration.
Vicki Voldal Rosenau
Valley City, ND