

**Neutral Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on HB1458
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1458 could be great and needed legislation with an appropriate amendment. This legislation prohibits the spread or release of a self-spreading virus.

This legislation was obviously drafted out of the COVID-19 experience. Our own US State Department acknowledged that the COVID-19 virus was an engineered virus manufactured in Wuhan, China. Further, Congress later confirmed this determination. There is no doubt where the virus originated.

This bill is well-intended and needed, **but needs an amendment** to avoid unintended consequences. My concern is that an ill person could inadvertently spread a virus and be held liable for the penalties indicated in the bill. There needs to be an amendment written to account for this as I do not believe this is the intention of the bill. I believe the intention of the bill is to target manufacturers of viruses.

Please give HB1458 a needed amendment exempting citizens who use a minimum standard of care in not spreading viruses. This amendment could make it a great bill and defend us from the disasters we saw unfold in 2020.

Thank you,

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