

Elizabeth Walch

House Bill 1150

January 14, 2025

To the members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on House Bill 1150 regarding the Sunday closing laws (aka blue laws). I am both a Christian, and a local pastor in Bismarck, and while I believe observing sabbath is important in my faith and religious practice, there are many other residents of North Dakota who practice other religions (or none!) They too have other texts, traditions, practices, and values that are important to them. This bill presumes that all people should honor and observe a sabbath practice on Sunday from 12 midnight until 12 noon which privileges the Christian observance of Sunday as religious sabbath. By doing this, the State is infringing upon the rights of non-Christian North Dakotans to freely exercise their beliefs. This is wrong. Additionally, with all the exceptions and different cases listed, it seems to me that all this bill would cause is confusion - for employers, workers, and consumers. That is bad for business and bad for North Dakota.

Again, I urge you to vote **NO on House Bill 1150**. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of faith tradition or belief.

In Christ,

Reverend Beth Walch, Bismarck