

Thank you Chairman Warrey and Members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee for your time, service and efforts you put into serving in the legislature and for giving me the ability to testify on this bill today. My name is Patrick Hanson, I'm from Bismarck and am a citizen that desires the welfare of the society that I live in. I would like to testify in favor of HB 1441.

The two objectives of this bill are very important to North Dakotans, and I believe it is important and even urgent that every state implements these goals.

One of the goals of this bill is refusing to recognize Central Bank Digital Currency or CBDC as legal tender in North Dakota. This is a good thing because CBDC, being a government created cryptocurrency will give way too much power to whichever government decides to create it. A CBDC is sourced directly from and programmed by the very government that chooses to create it, making it susceptible to being manipulated by anyone who would want to control the system of money that many people use. This is obviously a bad idea. Can you imagine what it would be like if a government programmed your money so that you can only spend in a way that government approves? Or a system where if you spend your money or behave in a way that is not acceptable to the government, they can fine you or close your digital wallet or bank account that your CBDC is stored in? CBDC brings about the potential and I would say inevitable implementation of social credit scores, and empowers central authorities to dictate how you live by controlling the digital grid which that money supply exists on. It's a lot like playing monopoly with a cheating banker who controls the money system. Is that something we really want? By excluding this from the definition of money, we can protect individuals, families and the whole state from this kind of tool that is ripe with opportunity to oppress and manipulate. The U.S. may not have officially adopted one yet, but this bill can be a preemptive measure that every state takes in refusing to affirm such a bad idea. A few such states already have with more considering it.

The second goal is the best solution states have to protect their money, not only from manipulation from others but also from losing purchasing power like the dollar has over time. The dollar has lost 98% of its purchasing power since 1971 when we got off of the gold standard. Gold and silver have never not been valuable and throughout time have proven to be the best way to store value and retain purchasing power. Section 10 of article 1 of the U.S. constitution says that the states have to recognize gold and silver as legal tender. This bill definitely fulfills that constitutional duty. There are lawmakers in other states that are looking into creating gold/silver backed debit card programs where you can store gold and silver in a depository and spend on debit card with it. Utah passed a study bill to look into that exact thing, and in Texas there is already a state bullion depository and a movement there and in other states to create a similar debit card program. I already use a gold backed debit card through a company called Glint. I've tried spending with gold, and yes, it really works. If North Dakota makes it legal tender, no one will be subject to property or capital gains tax, because it will not then be a mere instrument of exchange, but legally considered money. If we recognize gold and silver as legal tender it will allow North Dakotans to use those programs ourselves even if we didn't create our own state depository, so that the people of North Dakota can have a sound money option.

Money should offer you freedom, not be a chain around your neck. Gold and silver offer that ability to not have your money devalued by printing more of it, and also not be controlled by anyone else with power over it. As the old adage says, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely". Do we want money to become our worst enemy? States have the urgent responsibility to protect their people, protect a sound monetary system and fulfill their constitutional duty by exercising sovereignty over their own lands and saying yes to gold and silver as legal tender and no to CBDC being considered money.

Do you want to give any government, foreign or domestic that kind of total control over your monetary system? I ask that you do please pass this bill. Thank you again so much for the opportunity to testify today, I am open to any questions that the Chair and Members have.