



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER  
HB 1493  
House Industry, Business, & Labor Committee  
Chair Jonathan Warrey  
February 11, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** of House Bill 1493.

Labor availability has been identified as the top business concern facing companies in North Dakota. In our 2024 ND Economics and Employer Survey of our membership, 70% of respondents indicated they were having trouble hiring employees.

We feel that the Office of Legal Immigration can be a valuable tool to help connect employers with immigrants and New Americans that here legally in the country and seeking to enter the workforce. This past biennium, a number of steps have been taken to set the Office up. Eliminating it before it has had an opportunity to be fully functional would be premature.

We hope you will continue to support this resource for addressing workforce shortages. Thank you for your consideration.