

Dear Chair and Members of House Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Rev. Bob Boyar, Pastor of United Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, North Dakota for over nine years. I write in opposition to HB1493 relating to the office of legal immigration.

In my tenure as Pastor of United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown I have served as an advocate for the immigrant community in Jamestown. These hard-working people serve in many capacities at Anne Carlsen Center, Ave Maria nursing home and assisted living, Eventide nursing home and assisted living, Edgewood nursing home, Jamestown State Hospital, Jamestown Correctional Center, Cavendish, Collins Aerospace, University of Jamestown, Farmers Union, Walmart, Beekeepers, Farms, Hotels and restaurants. They are a vital part of our community. Without them the economy would suffer.

The different countries that I am familiar with are Liberia, Ethiopia, Philippines, Congo, Cameroon, Somalia, Ukraine, South Africa, India, and Norway. There are quite a few different languages spoken in Jamestown. The nurses from the Philippines are excellently trained.

We have recently hired a Liberian immigrant as our Christian Education Coordinator at United Presbyterian Church. He is known throughout the Liberian Community of Jamestown and owns Jaycon Grocery store which services the African Community. He is also a Rotarian like myself, which offers service above self.

The state needs the office of legal immigration to serve as an advocate to attract and retain hard-working people like I know here in Jamestown and in neighboring communities.

Thank you for your service to the people of North Dakota and the time and effort you have invested in making an informed decision on this bill.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bob Boyar