

Testimony in Favor of HB 1495

Industry, Business and Labor Committee- February 10, 2025

Chair Warrey and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, my name is Mariah Ralston and I'm writing in support of HB 1495. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I work as a librarian, and for myself and many of my colleagues, running for the Legislature is not possible if we want to keep our current positions. Many of us would not be guaranteed the possibility of work leave for the purpose of serving in the Legislature. This bill would help open the door to the possibility of a more accurate representation of North Dakota society in the Legislature. Enabling a broader expertise in a greater variety of professions would enable the Legislature to introduce legislation that speaks directly to the needs of North Dakotans.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1495 with a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Mariah Ralston