

My name is Susan Dingle. I live in District 35 and I vote in every election. Please DO NOT PASS HB1145 to require display of the ten commandments in every classroom in North Dakota public schools. Our country is based on separation of church and state—in the U.S. Constitution and opposition to government imposition of a state religion is part of the bill of rights. This bill directly contravenes the provisions and intentions of the US Constitution and its bill of rights. Posting a notice—of any sort—does not guarantee that it will be read or obeyed. It does not guarantee behavior. If the intention of this bill is to promote ethical, moral, “do unto others as you would do unto yourselves” behavior [a basic principle in many world religions, not just Christianity], it may be admirable, but it is flawed and wrong, in addition to violating key precepts our country is based on. If you want to promote morality and accountability, do it at the ballot box, do it by walking the walk and talking the talk [we might discover that some members would need to exit, I believe], and do it by how you act, every day, in every way. You cannot legislate morality or behavior, much as you might wish to.

VOTE DO NOT PASS on this perhaps well-intentioned bill that violates the constitution and the basis of this country.