

Samantha Fannik  
Regarding House Bill No. 1145  
January 12, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read what I have to say. I'm not able to be there in person, so I am thankful to be able to share my thoughts with you this way. I am writing in favor of House Bill No. 1145 which would bring the Ten Commandments back into our schools. The 10 Commandments haven't been displayed since 1980 and they were part of the foundation of our country.

The Ten Commandments is a historical document that deserves to be on the walls in classrooms and hallways. There has been an increase of young people that don't know right from wrong. Why is this? Where do we get our morals from? The foundation of morality comes from the Ten Commandments, and it is crucial to have a moral foundation to continue as a society. No matter your religion or lack thereof, we all can agree that it is important to listen to your mom and dad/guardian and that we shouldn't kill/hate people, cheat, steal, or lie. Why wouldn't we want students to see that on a document in the school?

What about the other commandments that have to do with God? The Ten Commandments will be posted on the wall, but they aren't required to be taught. This means that someone who believes in Buddha could look at the first commandment and think that their god is number one. It is not forcing my God on them. Christianity is not being forced or even talked about in public schools. Do you know what is though? Hinduism, Buddhism, Greek gods and goddesses, Egyptian gods, etc. I know because I am a teacher in the public school system. Those subjects are being forced onto students, and the majority of people don't have a problem with those things. They have nothing to do with the foundation of our country or its principles, yet it supposedly is so important to learn.

Why do kids go to school? They go to school to learn academics, gain social skills, prepare them for future careers, and understand responsible citizenship. The Ten Commandments provide morality which enhances learning as well as provides guidance on how to be a good person and a responsible citizen. This is why I believe the Ten Commandments should be on the walls in classrooms and hallways of our North Dakota schools.

In closing, the Ten Commandments will:

- increase the morality of students and staff in the schools
- not force religion on anyone
- bring an important historical document back into the schools

I feel blessed to live in the great state of North Dakota! Let's get back to the basis of what our country and state were founded on. Please allow the Ten Commandments to be posted on the walls and classrooms of schools by passing House Bill 1145. Thank you for your time.