



Testimony on HB 1145
National Association of Social Workers – North Dakota Chapter
House Judiciary Committee
January 14, 2025

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers opposes HB 1145 for the following reasons:

Displays of the ten commandments in public schools and universities are an endorsement of a particular religious belief, namely Judeo-Christian beliefs. Social workers believe that “educational institutions should create pluralistic environments; they should provide for, and facilitate interaction among, students and faculty of diverse racial, cultural, religious, spiritual, and ethnic backgrounds.”¹ **HB 1145 would prevent public schools and universities from creating and maintaining pluralistic environments** by creating or increasing the discomfort and vulnerability of students or others who do not hold Judeo-Christian beliefs and who would then feel deterred from expressing or discussing their own beliefs.

Embedded in the core values and practice of social work is respect for the inherent dignity and worth of each person.² HB 1145 clearly intends to send a message to students, teachers, and others, that persons who adhere to a Judeo-Christian belief system have a privileged position relative to individuals who believe in a non-Judeo-Christian religion, or no religion at all. **HB 1145 profoundly disrespects the inherent dignity and worth of each person in an educational setting.**

HB 1145 represents a threat to safe, open, and respectful educational settings, and NASW-ND strongly urges committee members to give HB 1145 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Loos
Lobbyist
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

¹ NASW, *Social Work Speaks*, 2025

² [NASW Code of Ethics](#)