

John Streccius

Regarding House Bill No. 1145

January 13, 2025

To the members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on the bill requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in public educational setting. As a Christian, and a pastor of more than 30 years I deeply value the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Ten Commandments which are core to my faith. As proud citizen of the United States of America, I find this bill in direct violation of my constitutional rights.

This country is founded on the freedom to assemble and worship as each shall choose. We live in a most beautiful, diverse FREE nation. Many of my fellow citizens and friends are neither Christian, Jewish nor of any faith and so they nor their children should be taught to adhere to the 10 commandments. We are free nation and have long established the separation of government favoring any religion.

Though the authors of HB 1145 may be well intended, this bill is neither patriotic nor Christian and I urge you to vote NO!

In addition, I find it in conceivable that public schools would be tasked with teaching any religion. This is the role of churches who are constitutionally guaranteed the right to assemble and worship.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on HB1145

Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of faith tradition or belief. As an ordained Lutheran minister of over 30 years, I encourage you to up hold the constitution of the United States and respect all its' citizens.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, I ask that you honor it with a NO vote.

Reverend John Streccius  
Bismarck, ND