

My name is Linda Lee Sand. I live in Fargo. I strongly oppose HB 1352.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

HB 1352 infringes on our First Amendment right to freely worship without threat of armed intimidation. It would take the power away from faith leaders having a say in whether or not they want guns in their churches, synagogues or temples and handing this decision over to the state. It's a reckless proposal and threatens the sanctity of these sacred spaces. Nor does it make sense to put worshipers in danger. There is absolutely no evidence that the notion of flooding the country with guns will eliminate gun violence. We are an outlier in developed nations in terms of gun safety globally, with one of the highest rates of gun violence and firearm deaths per capita, placing us significantly lower in gun safety among our peers.

Let's be real, the only heat Jesus would be packing is the warmth of compassion and tolerance, the fire of love. The story about Jesus in the temple? He'd be overturning the tables. And this bill.

I urge you to give this bill a DO NOT PASS.