

Good morning Mr., Chairman and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee.

My name is Doug Osowski, District 42, Grand Forks

I am here to introduce HB 1620 which I refer to as the Transparency Bill. **HB 1620** will create a user-friendly website to track taxpayer fund distribution. This transparency website will show the internet public users how public funds are allocated and in return foster trust and accountability to your constituents

This is how this website idea came about... I have a constituent who wanted to start a daycare. She had been informed that there was \$66 million dollars available towards daycare. She looked into it and started the paperwork to apply and was told, "There aren't any funds available." Where did this money go?

Then I spoke to a local, established daycare who knew about the \$66 million appropriated for daycares; She doesn't know where any of it went.

The state has a budget in the billions. Citizens have a right to know where it goes or at least an opportunity to find out where the money goes. i.e. Transparency!

Here are some key features that could make such a website effective:

1. **Clear Navigation:** Ensure the website has an intuitive layout with easy-to-understand menus and search functions.
2. **Detailed Reporting:** Provide comprehensive reports on who is receiving funds, the amounts, and the purposes for which they are being used.
3. **Interactive Tools:** Include interactive charts, graphs, and maps to help users visualize data.
4. **Regular Updates:** Ensure the information is regularly updated to reflect the most current data.
5. **Accessibility:** Make sure the website is accessible to all users, including those with disabilities.
6. **Contact Information:** Provide contact details for users to ask questions or report discrepancies.
7. **Future:** another potential option that this website could do is announce grant opportunities to all North Dakotans to gain an equal access opportunity.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, for the most part, there may not be widespread support for this bill. However, after talking with constituents, friends, and family across the state, it's clear that transparency is highly valued. Your constituents will appreciate this website and the insight it provides—not only in detailing how our tax dollars are spent but also in revealing the allocation of oil and gas revenue and legacy funds.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, I ask for your support of HB 1620. Thank you.