

Subject: Opposition to HB1226 – Impact on Individuals with Chronic Health Conditions

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1226, which seeks to amend Section 12.1-31-15 of the North Dakota Century Code concerning the wearing of masks in public places. As someone living with several chronic health conditions that necessitates the use of a mask for personal safety, I am deeply concerned about the implications of this bill.

The proposed legislation could inadvertently ostracize individuals like me who rely on masks to protect our health. By restricting mask usage in public spaces, the bill not only compromises our safety but also subjects us to potential discrimination and misunderstanding. Masks have become essential for many, especially those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions, to navigate public environments safely.

Furthermore, this bill may deter individuals from taking necessary precautions, leading to increased health risks. This is an important consideration in the wake of ongoing COVID infections, measles outbreaks, and the bird flu.

It is crucial that legislation considers the diverse health needs of all citizens and does not inadvertently marginalize vulnerable populations. We deserve to be able to attend a concert or community event safely.

I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of HB1226 on individuals with chronic health conditions and vote against this bill. Protecting public health should encompass the well-being of all community members, including those who require masks for their safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

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