

Dear ND Legislature,

I urge a **DO PASS** for SB 1280. Several boards across this state do not allow public comment periods. In many cases, the contact information for board members is not made available to the public, so people are not able to contact their local government board members via phone or email. The best way to contact these board members is to address the whole board at a public meeting.

It is my observation that many board and committee members do not wish to engage with the constituents, hear opposing viewpoints, or explain their decisions.

I am aware of numerous times when a person has tried to be added to a public agenda, and the chairman refuses to add them. Not because the topic is confidential, but simply because the chairman doesn't agree with the person wishing to speak, or doesn't want to have the topic discussed. A public comment period, enshrined in Century Code, would be very helpful to ensure diversity of opinions may be expressed in any public meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this bill.

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