

January 27, 2021
House Education Committee
Honorable Mark Owens

HB1460
Oppose

Good morning Chairman Owens and members of the Education Committee. I am Eric Plummer and I am the Chief of Police for the University of North Dakota. Today I will be speaking in regards to House Bill 1460.

The University of North Dakota is a large footprint in the greater Grand Forks community as it stretches beyond the traditional property of the campus. We have affiliated properties, private properties, and businesses interspersed throughout our core campus. We also have a network of city roadways and sidewalks which run throughout and contiguous to campus property. If this bill passes, we would not be able to enforce driving under the influence laws or quality of life laws, such as urinating in public, loud parties, and drinking in public, along these roadways and sidewalks throughout campus, and no longer would have some UND fraternities and sororities under the jurisdiction of our police department. Nor would we be able to respond to calls for service or emergencies, such as assaults or robberies on these streets and properties, shots-fired calls adjacent to our property, or even traffic crashes on city streets within the middle of campus. Passage of this bill would impact the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff.

When the Kroshel v. Levi N.D. Supreme Court decision created gaps within the campus geography in 2015, this affected our jurisdiction and our crime numbers increased within our Clery Act defined geography. In previous years, we were able to apprehend these criminals outside of this area prior to them reaching our campus properties. In 2017, the legislature addressed the issues regarding these gaps and aided us in our efforts by defining our law enforcement jurisdiction similar to those of other law enforcement agencies. The defined jurisdiction portion of that bill safeguarded the university's ability to protect its campus without having gaps within its campus borders. Since passage, an issue has been discovered regarding vehicles turning from these boundary roadways when violations of the law have occurred and is currently in bill form in the Senate.

I am opposed to HB1460 as it builds barriers to public safety for our students, faculty, staff, the campus and the community.

Thank you Chairman Owens and members of the Education Committee for your time today, for your service to the state, and for your continued support of the law enforcement community.