

Thursday, January 14, 2021

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee HB 1039
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CHAIRMAN KASPER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald (Lobby ID# 129). I'm appearing on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper Association (NDNA) and the North Dakota Broadcasters Association (NDBA). A conflict with another 9am hearing has prevented me from delivering these remarks in person. We support this bill.

The Associated Press notified the Legislative Council during the interim that it no longer wished to be in charge of the media room as mandated by Section 48-08-03, a law enacted 85 years ago and unchanged since then.

NDNA and NDBA worked with the interim Legislative Procedures and Arrangements Committee to come up with HB 1039. Our members agree with this concept.

NDNA and NDBA prepared printed media credentials for this session and has been working with the media regarding space in the room, use of the broadcast studio, etc. It's working well.

We urge a DO PASS on HB 1039.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions.