

Subject: [REDACTED]

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First and foremost, I'd like to thank all that sit on the Human Service Committee for giving me this opportunity to speak in support of HB 1118.

My name is Amber Vibeto, Minot ND - district 3. I'm the president of the ND Conservative political Action Committee representing a committee of 120 individuals statewide.

As you know, when ND experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislative branch was in their off year, and therefore was unable to represent ND citizens by weighing in on what the response to the virus should consist of. The executive orders were ongoing with no specified end date, and there were no parameters to inform citizens when, how, and why the state of emergency would end. Flood waters recede, and there is clear evidence of when it's time to rebuild, but who gets to decide what constitutes an emergency regarding a virus? COVID-19 is here to stay, and we cannot continue to infringe on people's right to live their lives as outlined in the Constitution of the United States.

Not only do the arbitrary nature of the executive orders undermine legitimate concerns of Covid-19, but it has caused and continues to cause great financial, emotional, and mental harm to thousands of North Dakotans. We have forced small businesses, restaurants, and bars to make extreme financial sacrifices, kept families away from dying loved ones, imprisoned the elderly in long-term care facilities, kept kids out of school and sports to the detriment of their mental health, forced people to wear useless and germ-soaked pieces of cloth over their faces, and even informed citizens how many people we should invite into our homes over the holidays. And we have done all of those things based on data that is inaccurate and untrustworthy. North Dakotans need to know that their voices matter. We need to know that our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will be protected from future emergency declarations. There is already national talk of what a climate lockd!

own would look like as many believe we are in the midst of a climate crisis. There should be more input and discussion surrounding what constitutes a state of emergency, not less. And that input should come locally, not from global organizations like the World Health Organization. That is why I would support a bill that would involve more legislative input in current and future state emergency declarations.

Thank you.