

My name is Melyssa Howry, and I am a resident of New Town, North Dakota. I am testifying in support of this bill. Over the past 9 months, we have seen masks become a fixture in society. However the science still remains unsettled as to whether or not masks prevent the spread of viruses of any kind. In fact, much of the data I have read seems to point to the possibility of masks actually causing an increase in contamination and the spread of Covid-19. We know that masks can increase the risk of bacterial infections, and that they are a breeding ground for more viruses and bacteria to cause additional problems. For these reasons alone, masks should not be required in the workplace, especially non-healthcare settings. I realize that some workplaces deal directly with those who are sick, but most workplaces do not, and therefore, should provide options to their staff members who do not wear masks (regardless of the reason, whether it be religious, medical, or philosophical). Of course, science matters. And in this case, true science shows that there is no conclusive evidence that masks on healthy people are an effective measure. I have attached two interesting articles. The first deals with the idea of “asymptomatic spread” (which is where the premise of masks originated) in relation to the high volume of false positives from PCR testing. The second looks at mask mandates in all 50 states and the correlation of those mandates with cases per capita. Thank you for reading!

- 1) <https://logicinthetimeofcovid.com/2020/11/28/a-miscarriage-of-diagnosis/>
- 2) https://rationalground.com/after-nine-months-we-still-know-masks-dont-work/?fbclid=IwAR3hjiP_ooonM3dkGsEzz-0wce1WAgODmqI9Ubn64uGWGuRAvtHyLDajVtk