

North Dakota Association for Justice "The Trial Lawyers of North Dakota PO Box 365 Mandan, ND 58554 www.ndaj.org

Jaclyn Hall, Executive Director (701) 663-3916 jaclyn@ndaj.org

DO PASS - HB 1262

Chairman Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Jaclyn Hall and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Association for Justice. NDAJ fully supports HB 1262.

HB 1262 highlights the unfortunate fact that some businesses are retaliating against workers for speaking up about bad business practices during the COVID 19 pandemic. These practices include, but are not limited to failing to provide proper PPE, poor sanitation practices or failure to comply with state and local health recommendations.

HB 1262 provides a layer of support employees deserve when they feel compelled to speak up about violations and not fear retaliation by business owners. Immunizing businesses for failing to protect workers while allowing them to silence workers through retaliation casts a dark shadow over North Dakota Businesses.

Without coverage from workers compensation for COVID related injuries, HB 1262 provides a pathway for employees to share their concerns and allows the legal system to determine validity of those claims.

We ask to you support employees all over North Dakota and vote DO PAS on HB 1262. We believe in supporting in our community members as they work through these uncertain times and we ask you too as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely, Jaclyn Hall NDAJ