



North Dakota AFL-CIO

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**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Support to HB 1341
February 1, 2021**

Chairperson Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1341.

According to the North Dakota Labor Market Information Cost of Living Estimator: a single North Dakota worker needs to make between \$9.51 to \$14.46, depending on location, to meet basic needs of life; that single worker raising a child needs to make between \$17.82 to \$25.60; and two adults working full time raising two children must make at least \$29.38 per hour of combined income, or at least \$15 an hour each in order to make ends meet anywhere in North Dakota.

Clearly, anyone making the minimum wage in North Dakota, no matter how many people are working in the household, or how many children they have, will not be able to meet basic needs on income alone. While we know that most employers in North Dakota pay above minimum wage, many do not, and many are paying less than what is needed to meet basic needs. We know that raising the minimum wage will also have an effect of raising wages for those who make more than minimum wages as well.

If we look at the four lowest paid occupation areas in North Dakota, according to the Occupational Employment Statistics, we see that mean wage for food preparation is \$12.76 per hour, \$14.45 for personal care services, \$15.83 Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance, 16.17 for Healthcare Support. This is over 60,000 North Dakota workers that would see primary or secondary increase in their take home pay, allowing them to more fully participate in our economy and provide for their families.

I recommend a "Do Pass" recommendation on House Bill 1341.

Respectfully Submitted,
Landis Larson
North Dakota AFL-CIO President