

Greater North Dakota Chamber
SB 2170
House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
March 22, 2021



Mr. Chairman and members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, my name is Matt Gardner, Director of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is the largest statewide business advocacy organization in the state. We are affiliated with the US Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, we stand in opposition to Senate Bill 2170.

The GNDC believes strongly in the free market system. This system gives strength to the consumer by enticing companies to compete among each other for thier business. This competition motivates companies to produce the products that meet the needs of the consumer at reasonable prices the market can support. This competition within the free market system has led our nation to innovate and develop world class products at reasonable prices, all at the demand of the consumer.

We oppose this bill because it is an infrindgment on the core of the free market system in North Dakota. Imagine if the prices of all goods and services in the State were negotiated by the government. This would remove all competition in the market leading to the development of what products the government feels are appropriate for its citizens.

GNDC asks you to resist the urge of what this bill is trying to accomplish and reject price control measures on drugs to promote not deminish innovation. It is critical that we foster a business climate in North Dakota and the nation that encourages private investment, research, innovation, product development, and the efficient delivery of products and services to meet the needs of the consumer.

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment. I respectfully urge you to reject SB 2170, and I would be happy to respond to any questions.

