

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

House Judiciary Committee HB 1185

REP. KLEMIN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald. I'm appearing on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper Association and the North Dakota Broadcasters Association. We oppose the portion of this bill – Subsection 5 beginning on page 2, line 29, through line 11 on page 3 - that allows closing a record that has been open for more than 65 years.

We believe that open records serve the public well and, unless there is a groundswell of support for closure, we believe that records that are open should remain open. We do not detect such a ground swell in this instance.

It is not good public policy to change long standing statutes based on a single incident.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you accept our proposed amendments below.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HB 1185

On page 2, delete lines 29 through 31

On page 3, delete lines 1 through 11

And renumber accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions.