

January 19, 2021

SENATE BILL 2181

SEN DAVID A. CLEMENS

MY NAME IS DAVID CLEMENS AND I AM THE SENATOR FROM DISTRICT 16 IN WEST FARGO/FARGO. I AM HERE TO INTRODUCE SENATE BILL 2181 THAT ADDRESSES THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION DURING AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION BY THE GOVERNOR.

I BELIEVE THAT IF WE ARE UNDER AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION OR NOT, SOME THINGS ARE NOT TO BE REGULATED BY THE STATE. ONE OF THESE IS THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION. A CHURCH OR ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MANAGING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND WILL ULTIMATELY SET THEIR OWN POLICIES CONCERNING ATTENDANCE AND OTHER MATTERS.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION. IT WAS FOREMOST IN THEIR MINDS AS THEY WROTE OUR UNITED STATES AND NORTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTIONS.

ND CONSTITUTION PREMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF NORTH DAKOTA, GRATEFUL TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE BLESSINGS OF CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1, DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SEC 3: THE FREE EXERCISE AND ENJOYMENT OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION AND WORSHIP, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OR PREFERENCE, SHALL BE FOREVER GUARANTEED IN THIS STATE.

US CONSTITUTION

1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT: CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THERE OF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS, OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES, IN SECTION 37-17.1-03 OF NORTH DAKOTA CENTRUY CODE, IS ADD A LIMITATION UNDER SECTION 1: NOTHING IN THIS CHAPTER MAY; LILMIT THE FREE EXERCISE AND ENJOYMENT OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION AND WORSHIP OR THE RIGHT OF THE CITIZENS TO ASSEMBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

I WOULD ASK YOU, AS THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, TO GIVE THIS BILL A "DO PASS".

ANY QUESTIONS