

GRAND FORKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

122 S 5TH ST, SUITE 210

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58201-4632

SHERIFFS.OFFICE@GFCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE: 701-780-8280

FAX: 701-780-8307



SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER

To: Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
RE: HB 1323
Date: 3/26/2021

Chairman Burckhard and members of the Committee,

My name is Andy Schneider and I have the honor and privilege of being the Sheriff of Grand Forks County. I am providing written testimony in opposition of 1323 as it is written. The following are my concerns.

It is apparent that this bill is being submitted to avoid measures similar to what occurred during the COVID pandemic. Although that may be the focus, it will have unintended consequences in certain situations.

Our office requires that face shields/personal protective equipment be worn in specific situations. Some of those situations include but are not limited to:

- **Entering or cleaning up clandestine labs**
- **Working within certain hazmat/CBRNE scenes**
- **Responding to designated 'hot zones' where it is known that contagious diseases are present (active TB outbreak)**
- **Working an active protest/riot where officers are being threatened/attacked with flying objects or liquids that are intended to adversely affect their vision or respiratory system, whether that injury be permanent or temporary impairment**
- **Other potential areas where there is a known risk to a deputy's vision or respiratory system and failure to protect it will likely cause serious or permanent damage.**

To not mandate the wearing of certain face coverings in specific situations would be a liability to our office and potentially Workforce Safety Insurance. I appreciate you taking my testimony under consideration when discussing how to proceed with HB 1323. Thank you for your time and your service to our State.

Andy Schneider
Sheriff, Grand Forks County