

March 29, 2021

Members of Political Subdivision Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the negative repercussions mask mandates have caused. I encourage you to consider these examples and vote DO PASS on HB1323.

Residents that have chosen to go without a mask for medical exception or otherwise are harshly judged and often harassed by fellow residents. People automatically make assumptions about non-maskers and you are expected to announce your protected health information.

Slogans displayed in our communities on billboards and on businesses such as “Be Kind, Mask Up” and “ND Smart” are insinuating that if you do not wear a mask you are neither kind nor intelligent. Is this the kind of message we wish to spread?

Mask mandates are setting a precedent for all future cold and flu seasons because residents have been made to believe wearing a mask will protect them from illness. The effectiveness of masks is heavily debated and I believe residents have been given a false sense of security in the effectiveness of masks. I fear more mask mandates could be in our future if we do not put a stop to it.

I strongly believe to wear or not to wear a mask should be a decision left up to the individual. I urge you to end these mandates by voting DO PASS on HB1323. Give residents back their right to choose and their right to breathe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Jordan Manthei
Resident of Fargo, North Dakota