

To: Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
From: Melanie Joerger
RE: HB 1323
Date: 03/30/21

Chairman Burckhard and members of the Committee,

I urge you to vote "Do Pass" on HB 1323.

If businesses or government agencies routinely encounter circumstances that require employees to wear certain kinds of masks for protection but employees choose not to wear them, the businesses can create a waiver exempting them from legal responsibility. If the employee is harmed due to noncompliance with the business's safety recommendations concerning masks, the employer will not be liable for injury due to the employees noncompliance with their policies.

We still have a mask mandate in our county. I have written to the commissioners of our county several times urging them to end the mask mandate. One commissioner stated that they don't have a specific goal in mind which would cause them to lift the mandate but we are getting there. How can we get to a goal we haven't established? Our county officials are not following the science or the restart program. We have been in the green zone for weeks along with the rest of the state. This is a prime example of why the government should not have the power to implement any oppressive mitigations, especially one that mandates the restriction of the natural breathing process.

Did you ever think that we would be at a point where citizens must unite and enact civil disobedience to protest the government's restriction of their right to breathe fresh air? I didn't either. This overreach is unprecedented. Don't let it happen again. Please vote "Do Pass" on HB 1323.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Melanie Joerger