

## HB 1491

My name is Deven Mantz. I live in district 5 in Minot. I am also the North Dakota State Legislative Director for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way – International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED-IBT). We represent track maintenance workers on the railroads. I come here as also a parent. A parent with 4 kids, 3 of them are in public school right now. That's why I'm proud that we have officially endorsed HB 1491.

This bill isn't only about feeding the next generation, it's also about welcoming the next generation. It's no secret that North Dakotans my age, and younger, have been leaving this state at an alarming rate. We don't have waterfalls, we don't have mountains, and we don't have forests. What we do have is integrity. We work hard. We have community and we take care of our own. This is an important step to show working people from around the country, that if they make the trek to North Dakota, we will welcome them; and they will be apart of this great community.

We, as a state, need to stand up for the most vulnerable, our children. We have the opportunity to do something great here. To make a lasting effect that will impact and add one more reason, for workers to stay in North Dakota. We have the means – we must invest in our future.

The BMWED-IBT supports this bill, because this bill isn't just to protect our children, but will also help working families throughout North Dakota, for generations to come.

Deven Mantz

ND Legislative Director

BMWED-IBT

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