Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask for your backing on this most important legislation. North Dakotan citizens deserve the peace of mind that comes with bias crime legislation. Bias/Hate crimes not only target and impact a certain individual, but they affect the community as a whole. This legislation would help ease the nervousness many minorities currently feel.

Legislation would also help put "teeth" into practice so that people will understand that there are repercussions for their actions, under penalty of law. Defined consequences including penalties for deplorable behavior that are consistent throughout the state of North Dakota should be our goal. This legislation helps to make this possible.

As an educator, I also see bias and hear hate speak. These actions are on the increase in our schools. Legislation would help address this in schools as well as on the streets, giving teachers, students, and community members a broad understanding of what is acceptable and expected in our schools.

I ask for your yes vote on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Angie Moser