

March 12, 2023

Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Service Committee,

I am writing to you today to ask that you vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1256.

As a ND citizen, as a woman, and as a mother of a teenage daughter, the implications of this bill scares me.

HB 1256 will, without a doubt, prevent victims of abuse and harassment from coming forward. This bill gives power to those perpetrating harassment and removes power from those experiencing this abuse.

Further, this seems to be a solution looking for a problem, especially considering that there are already laws in place to criminalize fraud.

Much of this legislative session seems to emphasize the protection of vulnerable populations, yet the words do not match the deeds. Bills such as HB 1256 say to vulnerable people such as women, the disabled, BIPOC, etc.: "We want you to come to North Dakota so we can claim to be welcoming, but if you find yourself in a bad situation we will do whatever we can to protect "our own" from your allegations." Is this the message you want to send? Because this is the message people are hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet B. Anderson

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