



# NORTH DAKOTA

## *Family Alliance* LEGISLATIVE ACTION

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 1172

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Madam Chair Roers and honorable members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am representing North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1172 and respectfully request that you issue a “DO PASS” on this bill.

The Pledge of Allegiance was initially written in August 1892 by the minister Francis Bellamy. Since that time, it has been modified a number of times into what we now recite as the pledge.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action recognizes that certain words and phrases in today’s version of the Pledge are problematic for some people. Some don’t like “one nation”, making the point of how divisive things are in our country right now. Others don’t like the phrase “justice for all”, and yet others want “under God” removed. While we appreciate their feelings, they’re missing the point.

The official Pledge of Allegiance is found in the United States Code (see attachment for a screen shot of USC code version). The USC represents the “consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States” [United States Office of the Law Revision Counsel website]. The official Pledge of Allegiance is codified, regardless of peoples’ various views on the Pledge and whether some feel it should be different. If they so choose, the citizens of the United States can work on changing the wording through the court system, as has been tried many times, or can work through Congress to try and change the wording. Until that point in time, the Pledge of Allegiance remains as it is today. This bill merely seeks to acknowledge that this is the official Pledge of Allegiance.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully request that you pass HB 1172 out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation.

Thank you for allowing us to testify, and I’d now be happy to stand for any questions.

# United States Pledge of Allegiance

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*\*Public Laws 117-263 through 117-362 have been enacted, but classifications have not yet been finalized. The currency ("laws in effect") date does not reflect acts for which classification has not been finalized.*

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## §4. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

(Added Pub. L. 105-225, §2(a), Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1494; amended Pub. L. 107-293, §2(a), Nov. 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 2060; Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title V, §586, Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 777.)

### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
4	36:172.	June 22, 1942, ch. 435, §7, 56 Stat. 380 : Dec. 22, 1942, ch. 806, §7, 56 Stat. 1077; Dec. 28, 1945, ch. 607, 59 Stat. 668; June 14, 1954, ch. 297, 68 Stat. 249; July 7, 1976, Pub. L. 94-344, (19), 90 Stat. 813.

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4 USC 4: Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery; Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives