

HB 1141: House Industry, Business, and Labor

I stand firmly opposed to HB 1141, and urge you not to pass this bill. While the overall intention of the bill, ensuring that public funds aren't used to support partisan lobbying, is admirable, the wording of this bill is far too broad and creates a much larger issue than it solves.

Educators, university faculty, librarians, and staff in all areas of our state government depend on attendance at professional conferences to enable them to keep their skills up-to-date and to meet the needs of their jobs. Those conferences are put on by private organizations, many of which have taken stances on political issues. Organizations from the American Chemical Society to the National Rifle Association have publicly endorsed candidates or supported or opposed ballot measures within the last ten years; these organizations also provide invaluable workshops, conferences, and knowledge to hundreds of public employees.

This bill would force universities, libraries, and other state offices to stop supporting most professional development for their staff, making our state's workforce less effective, less knowledgeable, and less competent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer A. G. Jenness

Employee of the North Dakota University System

Opinions expressed are solely my own and do not express the views or opinions of my employer.