

Regarding HB 1145

January 12, 2025

I am local church pastor and I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1145. Requiring the 10 Commandments to be posted in state educational institutions and public schools is inappropriate for people of Christian faith, people of non-Christian faith traditions, and people of no faith. The 10 Commandments are sacred to Christians and Jews. It is inappropriate for public institutions to use the sacred texts of our Christian and Jewish traditions in a public education setting. The appropriate place for education about the 10 Commandments is in religious institutions, churches, and synagogues.

Furthermore, it is entirely inappropriate to require the 10 Commandment be posted using the outdated wording of the King James Version. The King James Version was translated in the early 17th century and the English language has changed dramatically in the past 400 years. The archaic wording of the King James Version leads to misunderstanding and misappropriation of the Christian sacred texts. Requiring the King James Version be posted in public schools forces a specific understanding of Christianity upon all people. This violates the freedom of religion of all Christians, people of other faith traditions, and people of no faith.

It is a direct violation of freedom of religion to require the posting of the 10 Commandments in state educational institutions or public schools. As a Christian pastor who holds the 10 Commandments and the entirety of the Christian sacred text in high esteem, I strongly urge a do NOT Pass on HB 1145.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg
Local Church Pastor - Christian
Bismarck, ND