



Opposition Testimony of HB 1307

Chelsea Ridge
North Dakota Public Health Association
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Section, Chair
Williston, ND

Chairman Longmuir, and Representatives of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Chelsea Ridge, and I am the chairwoman of the North Dakota Public Health Association (NDPHA) Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Section. Our vision is a North Dakota where every person can live their healthiest life. I am here to provide Opposition testimony to House Bill 1307, to protect local control.

North Dakota's public health system consists of 28 decentralized local public health units working in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. We collaborate closely with local governments across our state to enhance and safeguard the health and safety of our citizens. In a combined effort to implement effective solutions for our local communities across the state.

HB 1307 is highly concerning to us as it threatens local control. Many local ordinances in place across our state, stronger than state law, play a critical role in protecting our communities from the harms of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. These local ordinances are vital for maintaining the safety and well-being of our residents.

One example is the Responsible Beverage Server Training (RSBT) program, is a collaborative effort between local public health units, law enforcement agencies, alcohol establishments, the North Dakota Safety Council, and several municipalities that require RSBT because it's designed to educate employees who serve and sell alcoholic beverages the signs of over-service or intoxication, relatable laws, ID Checking guidance, and youth alcohol prevention. Responsible Beverage Server Training, when implemented correctly, with sustainability, in partnership with owners and managers, and implemented in coordination with other interventions can substantially reduce a number of harms due to risky alcohol consumption.¹

Our last area of concern is the numerous cities that have safeguarded their citizens from the harms of exposure to secondhand smoke. For example, protecting our children at local parks and playgrounds that already display signs that tobacco use is prohibited in this space. North Dakota's smoke free law doesn't address outdoor spaces.

Local public health measures need the flexibility to tailor interventions to meet the needs of our local communities. For all these reasons, we urge you to vote no on HB 1307.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Chelsea Ridge

1. *Fell JC, Scolese J, Achoki T. The Effectiveness of Responsible Beverage Server Training Programs: A Literature Review and Synthesis. Journal of Alcoholism Drug Abuse & Substance Dependence. NORC at the University of Chicago, 4350 East-West Highway, 8th Floor, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, United States. Apr 18, 2024. Accessed on September 25, 2024, at: heraldopenaccess.us/openaccess/the-effectiveness-of-responsible-beverage-service-training-programs-a-literature-review-and-synthesis*