

Testimony  
House Bill 1307  
House Political Subdivisions  
February 6, 2025

Katie Beyer, CHES  
Executive Officer for City-County Health District  
Valley City, North Dakota (District 24)

Chairperson Longmuir, Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Katie Beyer and I serve as the Executive Officer for City-County Health District in Valley City. I am writing to oppose HB 1307, a bill that threatens to override local authority.

As a community we made a decision to end the sale of flavored vape products based on the concerns of resident parents. First adopted in 2016, then upheld again last summer, this decision was based on:

- Listening to business owners, who didn't want to sell these products but also didn't want to be at a disadvantage.
- Hearing from parents, like one who found a cotton candy-flavored vape in her middle schooler's backpack. She had no idea how easily kids could access these products—until it was too late.

We also have an ordinance requiring responsible beverage server training for anyone who serves alcohol as part of their regular job.

That ordinance ensures:

- Alcohol is served responsibly.
- Over-service is prevented.
- Our community stays safer.

Just like our efforts to end the sale of flavored vape products, this policy was developed by and for our community. And it works.

We did it because:

- We are here.
- We understand our communities.
- And we act when necessary.

Valley City has long made clear and intentional decisions to protect our residents.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1307 and allow communities like mine to continue making decisions that align with our local priorities and values.

Thank you for your time and consideration.