

## **Testimony in Opposition of HB 1152**

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Chairman Representative Lefor, and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee. My name is Brad Stockert. I am a musician and a Bismarck Public Schools Music Teacher. I have played in a band for nearly forty years and am here to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1152.

Before the ND Smoke-free law passed, I would come home from playing a gig at the bar, and my eyes would sting and itch when I touched them. I knew it had to do with toxins in secondhand smoke. I would leave my clothes in the garage to air out. Being someone who performs in bars and works in schools, I hesitated to bring my equipment to work because it smelled like smoke, and I didn't want to expose others to secondhand smoke.

I appreciate the ND Smoke free law because I can enjoy playing in bars with my band and not smell like smoke the next day. It is easier to play gigs without the haze of smoke in the air. It has also been nice to eat at restaurants without the unpleasant experience of other patrons who smoked in the restaurant even when it was separated by a wall, which was ineffective.

HB 1152 would revert us back to the uncomfortable experience of playing in a bar or eating in a restaurant that could be in same location as a cigar bar, like a strip mall. In addition, cigar smoke is a much more potent smell to me than cigarette smoke. I also fear the combination of scents and flavors that might be in the air would make me nauseous while I'm playing a gig.

Individuals who play in a band, bartend, wait staff or work in an office should all have the same protections from secondhand smoke. I urge you to oppose HB 1152 so North Dakota can continue to protect everyone, no matter where they work. Thank you for your time. This concludes my testimony.