

TESTIMONY OPPOSITION OF HB 1152

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Chairman Lefor, and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Katarina Zimmerman, I am a College intern at the Bismarck Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention program. I am here to provide testimony and oppose HB 1152.

While visiting Las Vegas four years ago, they still allowed people to smoke within the buildings. There was a lot of smoking. I get sick when I smell smoke. I get headaches, sometimes I will even get dizzy and have an upset stomach. Even though in Las Vegas the area was huge, second hand smoke still clings to everything. You can never get rid of smoke 100% even if you have the "proper" ventilations or by having a large space. Smoke will follow you. I love that ND has a smoke free law because it protects my family and I from secondhand smoke and illness caused by it. According to the American Lung Association: Smoking is the No. 1 cause of lung cancer. It causes about 90% of lung cancer cases.¹ I am concerned about health problems caused by second hand smoke, I want to live a long healthy life and especially since I have a younger child. What if the cigar bar was located in the strip mall, next to Dairy Queen, my son and myself would be exposed to secondhand smoke. I don't want him ever being subject to the possibility of inhaling second hand smoke. Second hand smoke carries with that person, on their clothes and hands. I wouldn't want to smell smoke while eating or anywhere for that matter, why should we allow others or youth experience second hand smoke when there are clearly health related problems to it.

In North Dakota, kids under 18 who become new daily smokers each year is 200. That is a lot of children becoming smokers. As a mother of a 6-year-old, I ask the House

Industry, Business and Labor Committee to vote no on HB 1152. We have made great strides in our community with reducing tobacco use rates and protecting individuals from secondhand smoke. Let's continue with our great work and not go backwards. Thank you. This concludes my Testimony.

Source

1. <https://www.breathend.com/news/avoidsmoking/>