

**Testimony on HB 1152**  
**Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee**  
**March 9, 2021**

Good morning Chairman Klein and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee. My name is Mary Korsmo and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officials (SACCHO). My testimony is on behalf of North Dakota's 28 local public health units and opposes HB 1152.

In 2012, our current comprehensive, smoke-free law passed by a majority of voters in every county in North Dakota. The ND smoke-free law was created to protect workers, residents and visitors from exposure to secondhand smoke in public places and places of employment. Passage of this bill would jeopardize this law only to accommodate the desires of 4% of the adult population.

HB 1152 does not control the businesses or entities sharing a wall with a cigar bar or lounge. The CDC, after much research, has determined that ventilation systems do not protect people from the dangers of secondhand smoke. This conclusion is also supported by the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers reporting that even separately enclosed, separately exhausted, negative-pressure smoking rooms do not keep secondhand smoke from spilling into adjacent areas.

Cigars are not a safer alternative to cigarettes as they contain many of the same cancer-causing substances as cigarettes and other tobacco products. Tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death and disease in our state and nation. Any effort to diminish North Dakota's current smoke-free law is a step backwards to making ND a healthier, safer place to live and work. The benefits of our current smoke-free law should be honored to protect ALL North Dakotans.

The North Dakota Association of City and County Health Officials urges a DO NOT PASS on HB 1152. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony for your consideration.