

Rationale for passing HB 1175 begins with a simple axiom:

*Government will not admit its mistakes!*

This is particularly true for the government actions taken against citizens in the context of a COVID-19 emergency:

- Lockdowns and quarantines
- Mask mandates
- **Business shutdowns or restrictions**

“Not Needed!” is the primary objection.

Normally that is a reasonable response to new legislation. This is not a normal situation. In the wake of the government’s damaging actions in the context of COVID-19, many related state legislative actions are warranted. HB 1175 deals with the fact that 1) government has made painful mistakes, and 2) those mistakes cannot be allowed to redefine our society.

Consider the role of businesses to North Dakota:

- Businesses give purpose to many people
- Businesses provide for the economic security of North Dakotans
- Businesses are essential to paying for government
- There is NO REPLACEMENT for the role of businesses in society

Consider the government’s actions against businesses due to COVID-19:

- There was no data to justify government-imposed restrictions on businesses. Yet government did, and:
  - Business closed.
  - People lost jobs.
  - Lives were impacted.
- No proof that business restriction had a material impact upon the viral curve

exists.

Consider how ongoing legal fear within businesses affects North Dakotans:

- Businesses were mandating masks upon their customers long before government did.
- Businesses continue to compel their customers to wear masks after government relaxes.
- **This is fueling mask conflict within our state** (picture examples of citizen-on-citizen coercion, shaming, and quasi-enforcement of mask wearing). **This vicious cycle will continue as long as businesses are fearful.**

Businesses are not just mechanical sources of profit generation. They represent the lives, futures, and well-being of all North Dakotans. Businesses should be protected against opportunistic predators.

Please DO PASS HB 1175 so that North Dakota businesses can make decisions without fear of COVID-19 tyranny.