

HB 1282

I am writing in support of HB 1282.

If I understand this bill correctly, you, our elected officials, would regain the power to make decisions on our behalf. The mandates by Governor Burgum and the unelected State Health Officer have been detrimental to our livelihood and taken away our ability to manage and recover through their overreach. We are not in an emergency. It is time we take back control of our state.

I lived through the 1997 flood, a disaster that cost Grand Forks \$557.5 million dollars. Despite the fire, flood, and evacuation that affected almost all the 52,000 citizens, people were anxious to get back to normal and worked hard to rebuild the city. The emergency was warranted, but even with all the destruction, did not extend beyond that year.

We are being told that we are in a state of emergency right now, one that has been going on for nearly a year. That defies the definition of an emergency! Because we are in an emergency, we are being ruled by health officers that we did not elect, and we have no control over the unscientific decisions made, affecting all areas of life.

Our response to the SARS COVID-2 virus has been unmistakably exaggerated. We locked down schools despite scientific evidence showing that schools pose little to no risk of spreading the illness. We put unrealistic mandates in place that denied freedom for our citizens to be responsible for their own health. We attempted to force mask wearing, though there is no evidence that the cloth masks being pushed can stop viruses from spreading. We carried out mass testing with an ineffective test whose positive “cases” drove drastic isolation and quarantining measures that further cut our education and medical personnel availability.

**We are not in an emergency. We are in a forced public health fiasco.** The vaccine cannot prevent the virus from being shared, so there is no sense in declaring an emergency until more have received it. We need to do what we should have done in the beginning. We need to protect the most vulnerable, and the rest of us need to do what we did in 1997—get back to living life.

Erin J McSparron