

OPPOSE NORTH DAKOTA HB 1144

HB 1144 authorizes lawsuits demanding \$50,000 in damages against social media sites that remove “viewpoints” posted by users—even if the post is offensive, abusive, or obscene.

Worse, HB 1144 authorizes \$50,000 lawsuits against any North Dakotan who flags a viewpoint that is then removed from the social media page.

Examples of “viewpoints” that are protected from removal by HB 1144:

- ★ Under HB 1144, if the pastor at First Baptist Church flags an Atheist's hurtful comment on the Church's YouTube page, the Atheist can sue the pastor and the Church for \$50,000 if the comment is removed.
- ★ If your constituent flags Al Jazeera content celebrating acts of terrorism on a social media platform and the content is removed, Al Jazeera can sue your constituent for censoring their viewpoint, under HB 1144.
- ★ Say someone posts on the Fargo Public Schools Facebook page demanding that schools close because children are dying from COVID, and the school district removes the post because it is against CDC guidelines. HB 1144 authorizes the creator of that post to sue the school system for censoring their viewpoint, demanding \$50,000.

And a plaintiff's attorney could seek a class action for over a billion dollars, since HB 1144 says any North Dakotan who could have seen the post can be a plaintiff.

- ★ HB 1144 enables \$50,000 lawsuits against North Dakota's state committees for the Republican and Democrat parties -- if they removed opposing viewpoints posted on the pages they manage on major social media platforms.

**Oppose HB 1144 when it comes before the Senate,
so that social media platforms can continue to remove toxic user posts
that are offensive, obscene, and abusive to North Dakotans.**