



**House Human Services Committee
HB 1320
January 19, 2021**

Chair Weisz and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the executive director of the ND Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA stands in opposition to HB 1320.

Childhood vaccinations have proven to be one of the most effective public health strategies to control and prevent disease. Reductions in childhood morbidity and mortality of many communicable diseases have significantly decreased in Western countries largely because of national immunization strategies aimed at infants and children.

According to a study in the National Center for Biotechnology (NCBI), it is estimated that for each U.S. birth cohort receiving recommended childhood immunizations, around 20 million illnesses and more than 40,000 deaths are prevented, resulting in \$70 billion in savings.

The potential for vaccines to prevent morbidity and to save lives has never been greater, but this potential can only manifest if there is compliance with the recommendations for childhood and adolescent immunization.

Efforts by health care providers, as well as community- and government-based interventions to increase vaccine coverage, must continue in order to reduce morbidity and mortality in children due to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.