

November 9, 2021

Joint Technical Committee
Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
Bismarck, North Dakota

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1510

Dear Chairpersons Lee and Weisz,

My name is John Hagan. I am a physician with the ND DOCR and I serve as the State Correctional Health Authority. I stand today in opposition to HOUSE BILL 1510. I offer this information for your consideration.

- ND DOCR currently receives approximately 120 new admissions each month. Arrival COVID testing, quarantine and offer of immunization are performed based upon the individual's prior testing and COVID immunization status.
- This brief quarantine is an essential tool in our COVID mitigation program and has allowed us to minimize infection while continuing to accept admissions during COVID outbreaks.
- During outbreaks in the facilities, decisions regarding further testing and need for quarantine are made based on immunization status of individuals who are close contacts of COVID positive residents.
- These determinations and our mitigation program are designed in accordance with CDC guidelines for correctional facilities and have been reviewed and approved by CDC and State DOH.
- The ND DOCR is not a health care facility. It is, however, a congregate living facility and is considered so by the State DOH. The current exception language in this bill as written does not cover the ND DOCR and its contract facilities, as none of these entities are regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

I thank you for your time and attention.

Very Respectfully,



John J. Hagan, M.D.
State Correctional Health Authority

