

HB 1450: Parents Right to Access to Exam Rooms
Senate Human Services Committee
March 17, 2025
Presented by Rep. SuAnn Olson (District 8)

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, I am pleased to introduce HB 1450 to you today. It is a simple, but important bill that protects parents' rights in medical exam rooms.

The bill

The bill adds a new section to Chapter 14-10 and clarifies that a parent or guardian has access to the medical examination room of their minor child.

Lines 8 and 9 declare that a parent or guardian has full access to an examination room in which their child is receiving care.

Lines 10 and 11 state that the provider or facility must provide notice of the parents' right to be in the exam room.

Lines 12-14 state that a privacy screen may be used.

Lines 15 on page 1 through page 2, Line 3 require a provider to give written notice before any standardized questions may be asked of the minor, that the parent, guardian, or minor can opt out of questions that are unrelated to the purpose for the visit, whether the minor's answers will be shared with others or stored in the record or recorded in any manner, and a list of categories and topics of questions that may be asked.

Finally, Page 2 Line 5 - 8 state when this section does not apply.

You might ask whether this bill is needed. The answer is yes. Parents have been asked to leave exam rooms in North Dakota and children are being asked at least some questions that are unrelated to the visit or the condition of the child without permission of the parent or guardian.

As North Dakotans, we understand that parents are the primary caregivers, influencers, and protectors of their children. They are not required to cede their authority, familial support, and protection of their children when they enter a medical facility but that is what happens when they are asked to leave the room. Further, parents have every right to know who this information may go to and where it will be recorded. Just like the internet, information in electronic records never really goes away.

Obviously, this law shouldn't apply to emancipated minors or where there are suspected cases of physical or sexual abuse.

Madam chairwoman and members of the committee, this is a good bill that protects the right of parents to represent and protect their children. I respectfully urge you to give HB 1450 a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you.