

**Testimony to the House Human Services Committee on HB 1320**  
**Testimony by Barbara Frydenlund**  
**Rolette County Public Health District Administrator**

Good afternoon, Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Barbara Frydenlund, and I am the Nurse Administrator for Rolette County Public Health District. I am offering this testimony today in opposition of HB 1320.

Vaccinations are a critical part of preventative health care and are the backbone of public health. It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs. As you are aware, there are several vaccine preventable diseases. Many of these diseases have never been seen by today's healthcare providers and parents, in part because we have been actively vaccinating our infants and children for several years. Science and data confirm that vaccinations work to curb infection rates. Vaccinations are the most effective medical treatment in the prevention of infectious diseases around the world. North Dakota law sets minimum requirements for children attending early childhood facilities, head start programs, preschool education, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Age-appropriate vaccinations are designed to be a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting children from serious and potentially life-threatening diseases. Vaccinations not only help protect children, but also protect the broader community by minimizing the spread of disease. It is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and the healthcare providers to protect the health and safety of children. **ALL CHILDREN in public daycare facilities and schools have the right to be protected from vaccine preventable disease.**

Unfortunately, COVID 19 has shown us how a disease can overtake and paralyze the world that we live in and answers the question of “**why vaccines are important**”.

Thank you for allowing me to share my expertise in this field. I urge a **DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB 1320.**