

HB 1320

House Human Services Committee

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Chair Weisz and Committee Members:

My name is Jessica Doty, and I am a Registered Nurse and the Director of Student Health Services at the University of North Dakota. I have worked in collaboration with Laura Oster-Aaland, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management from North Dakota State University to oppose HB1320. The bill would challenge the ability to identify student immunization status, which is critical to achieve herd immunity on college campuses due to the close nature of student interactions in living, working, and learning environments. Furthermore, this bill directly contradicts [CDC recommendations](#) to increase vaccine uptake and reduce vaccine-preventable disease.

UND and NDSU together bring over 26,400 students from across the state, nation and world together to create diverse learning experiences. Currently, measles, mumps, rubella, and meningococcal vaccines and documentation is required to attend North Dakota colleges and universities per [NDUS policy 506.1](#).

Vaccine requirements help protect our campuses from highly contagious vaccine-preventable disease occurrences, as well as promote a quick public health response to protect other community members in case of an infection through the tracking of students' immunization status. Exemptions to the vaccine requirement are available to students with medical, religious, or philosophical objections to the vaccine requirement per each individual campus policy.

To highlight the rapid transmission that could occur on a campus consider this example. Measles is spread through the air and 9 out of 10 non-immune people in contact with someone infected with measles can become ill. Measles hangs in the air for up to 2 hours ([cdc.gov/measles](https://www.cdc.gov/measles)). Imagine how quickly measles could spread in a dorm, college classroom, or sporting event. Being able to identify vulnerable students who may be exposed to vaccine-preventable disease is an important reason to require vaccination records be submitted on college campuses.

As we work to fight a worldwide pandemic, opening the threat for preventable outbreaks is not advisable. The elimination of immunization requirements would impact the learning and living of university students and adversely affect the mission of our college and university populations.

I respectfully request a Do Not Pass on HB1320 and am available to answer your questions.

Thank you.

References

1. Marin, M., Marlow, M., Moore, K.L., & Patel, M. (2018). Recommendation of the advisory committee on immunization practices for use of a third dose of mumps virus-containing vaccine in persons at increased risk for mumps during an outbreak. *MMWR*; 67:33-38. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6701a7>
2. Golwalkar, M., Pope, B., Stauffer, J., Snively, A., & Clemmons, N. (2018). Mumps outbreaks at four universities – Indiana, 2016. *MMWR*, 67: 793-797. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6729a1external_icon
3. Williams, W.W., Sosin, D.M., Kaplan, K.M., Hersch, B.S., & Preblud, S.R. (2010). Vaccine-preventable diseases on college campuses: The emergence of mumps. *Journal of American College Health*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.1989.9939060>