

January 18, 2021

Re: Support for HB 1320

To Representative Weisz and the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my support to North Dakota House Bill 1320.

I am a healthcare provider in the state of North Dakota and have been a ND resident my entire life. I have worked in the healthcare field since 1994 and have two children. I have always been an advocate of vaccinations. I, however, have serious reservations about mandating individuals in regards to their healthcare. I believe that all individuals should have the right to choose what they feel is best for the care of themselves and their children. This is especially true for any treatment that has the potential to cause harm. This should be a choice for parents with input from their healthcare provider. As a healthcare provider it is my responsibility to educate my patients on the importance of vaccinations. It is also my responsibility to look at each patient's individual health and take this into account in that discussion. I am a vaccine advocate, but I do not support the mandating of any form of healthcare. House Bill 1320 helps our state prevent the slippery slope of mandated healthcare.

I also happen to be someone living with a chronic autoimmune disease and have a child with a rare genetic condition. I require treatments every six weeks that lower my immunity. I am unable to take live vaccinations. My son's condition also puts him at higher risk for illness. I have to safeguard myself and my son when it comes to illnesses. I was educated about these precautions by my own healthcare provider. And I take the precautions for my own health and my child's, this includes vaccinations. I do not believe **others** should be mandated to take a vaccination to protect me or my son, as I know that **no vaccination is 100% effective**. Someone who cannot take vaccinations should be taking precautions to protect their health at all times, not just in school. Do we then require all public places to monitor vaccination records to protect those that cannot vaccinate?

I am very fearful of a society that judges individuals on their ability to take a vaccination. I am fearful of a society that limits an individual's ability to attend school or daycare based on the opinions of others. There will always be new illnesses. There may be another pandemic on the horizon. We cannot use the fear associated with COVID-19 to cloud our judgment on constitutional rights.

In summary, individuals worried about illness have the right to choose to vaccinate themselves and their children for their own protection. They also have the responsibility to protect themselves in regards to their health. Individuals who are unable to vaccinate should already be taking precautions to protect themselves as vaccinations are never 100% effective. For the above stated reasons I urge you to support House Bill 1320.

Sincerely,

Cori Randall, APRN FNP-C