



**House Human Services Committee
HB 1469
January 25, 2021**

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the executive director of the ND Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA stands in support to HB 1469.

Childhood vaccinations have proven to be one of the most effective public health strategies to control and prevent disease. Efforts by health care providers, as well as community- and government-based interventions to increase vaccine coverage, must continue to reduce morbidity and mortality in children due to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Actions proposed in HB 1469 would strengthen efforts to educate the public on vaccines, that would present an unbiased view on immunizations. By providing evidence-based information about childhood vaccinations, the public will be provided with both potential harm information as well as vaccine benefits.

Since North Dakota citizens have freedom of choice on medical, religious and philosophical reasons to choose a childhood vaccine exemption, this bill has the potential to bring important science-based information to the public by providing an unbiased platform for vaccine education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.