

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa Deckert and I am from Devils Lake. I spent 33 years as a home educator. All of my children have since graduated. One of those graduates had a severe reaction to an immunization when she was only 2 months old. Because of this, she was exempt from certain immunizations. She is now 34 years old, but in her early days there were not as many immunizations pushed on a child at one appointment. Because she had only received one immunization that day, it was easy to know what the culprit was.

If I were parenting young children today I would seriously consider spacing out or delaying some immunizations. I know many parents who opt for that. I also know parents who have religious, moral or philosophical objections to immunizations.

Our current state law allows parents to opt their child out based on those reasons. I am opposed to the adding of a "reeducation plan" (section 3, point b) for parents who choose to opt their child out of mandatory vaccinations, especially in the homeschool realm where children are not with age mates all day for five days each week.

Most parents who choose another path have studied the issue thoroughly and have educated themselves about the possible risks. It is insulting to insist they go through an education module.

30 years ago when my children were young, there were fewer requirements. With Covid and the adoption of a vaccine that does not have long term studies, I am afraid we are opening the door for other vaccines where the general populous will be the trial study.

I also write you because I personally suffer from chronic hives because of a reaction to a medication three years ago. My doctor feels like this will be a permanent issue for me. Basically my immune system has been compromised. I did not even know such a thing could even happen.

We need to be very careful when we start adding excess regulations that hamper an individual's private medical decisions. Please vote no on HB 1469.

Thank you,

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