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67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Special 2021 Session  
Joint Technical Corrections

In opposition of HB1510

Dear North Dakota State legislators,

As HB1510 heads to Joint Technical Corrections, I would like you to consider my interpretation of the controversy around the vaccine mandates. I am a citizen of North Dakota in District 27.

I checked my own vaccine record and was not able to pull it together. I found 20 childhood vaccines, I don't think anybody asked my mother whether I wanted them. Followed up with refreshers, 9 vaccines for a trip to South America, a bunch of vaccines for an assortment of visas, not to talk about annual flu shots. I estimate the total to be in the neighborhood of 70 or 80. Other than the flu shots, these were mandatory. Knowing my own health history, I probably would not have survived childhood without these vaccines. I suspect same might be true for some of those who are reading this letter. It never once occurred to me that my freedom was infringed upon there. Instead, I felt protected and cared for.

So, why is it that so many oppose the vaccines? I don't think it is for any rational reasons. The vaccines are not experimental, they are approved by the FDA, they are safe, research on RNA vaccines has been done across the past 20 years and it was known that the lipid nanoparticle that is used as a carrier to transport the RNA into our cells is safe for a long time. Side effects are as for all vaccines, mild to rare complications. The argument that people don't know what is in there is semi-valid. They may not know, but if they truly wanted to know, the ingredients are published. In fact, these are the only vaccines I ever got where I did know what was in it. From the point of view of a scientist, this is a normal vaccine, like many others. I think the true reason is that back then when vaccines eradicated smallpox and polio, people still believed in science, scientists, medical health professionals, and other experts. So did I. That is why I became a scientist with 9 years of education and by now more than 30 years of experiences on the job. I have personally written three peer-reviewed research papers on Covid-19, one of them being on the vaccines. There is nothing in there that people need to be afraid of. I understand people don't trust scientists and health professionals these days. This is however dangerous and much more likely to kill anyone than the vaccine. As a society, I believe strongly that it is time to stop supporting the virus and start supporting our citizens. All the virus wants is susceptible bodies and we need to stop providing that. Vaccines have gotten us out of smallpox and polio; if we allow it, they will get us out of Covid-19. I would very much appreciate if you could strike down HB1510. This is not discrimination, this is public health. And we still require a long list of other vaccines to get a kid into school. This vaccine is not truly different from any of those.

Birgit Pruess, Microbiologist