

Testimony to the Joint Technical Corrections Committee

Testimony by Barbara Frydenlund Rolette County Public Health District Administrator

Good afternoon, Chairman Weisz, and members of the Joint Technical Corrections Committee. My name is Barbara Frydenlund, and I am the Nurse Administrator for Rolette County Public Health District. I am offering this testimony today regarding HB 1510 and HB1511.

As a Registered Nurse and a mother of two, I ask policy makers to follow the science of immunology, vaccination, and disease prevention. Our communities, state and nation will be a safer place once everyone has access to science based, competent health care and access to all authorized/approved vaccines.

You are aware that there are several vaccine preventable diseases. Many of these diseases have never been seen by today's healthcare providers and parents, in part because for years we have been actively educating parents and guardians and vaccinating children and adults.

History is said to repeat itself! A very wise man told me years ago that "those who do not remember or recognize the past will surely repeat it!" This wise man was my grandfather who witnessed firsthand the tragedy of the 1918 flu pandemic, as he and the local doctor drove from house to house, via horse and buggy, helplessly witnessing death after death from what is now known as a vaccine preventable disease. Let us not relive the tragedy endured by our ancestors, of the untimely deaths at the hands of what we now know as vaccine preventable diseases.

Groundbreaking medical victories continue to provide American's with this high health standard. Immunizations are among the most cost-effective and successful public health interventions.

This fall we have seen an uptick in the number of children and adults contracting COVID 19. A casual glance around our state demonstrates a significant decrease in COVID mitigation measures including masking. In 2020 and early 2021 we protected our children at a higher level than we are currently.

From a local public health administration view point I strongly believe that it is my responsibility to protect my workforce and our clients from disease including

vaccine preventable diseases. We are already facing workforce challenges and additional loss of employees who are out of the office “ill” further hampers our ability to serve our citizens.

North Dakota Legislation is of extreme importance to Rolette County Public Health District as we continue to work diligently to deliver the highest level of disease protection, promotion of healthy lifestyles and protection of the environment.

Please continue to allow Rolette County Public Health District to retain the authority to set local policy that best suits our environment and culture.

Sincerely,

Barbara Frydenlund, RN
Nurse Administrator
Rolette County Public Health District