

Citizen testimony on HB1510

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The core of any discussion regarding vaccine mandates and related bills must be fundamental human rights. Do you agree or disagree that a human being has the right to reject the insertion of a substance into her body?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article III adopted by the United Nations in 1948 states: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person." What is more elemental to liberty and security of person than the right to abstain from injection of a foreign substance into one's body?

No matter how noble the cause suggested, at the most basic level we are talking about forcing substances into others who oppose it with every fiber of their being.

This is not about unjust restrictions on employers' rights as some have suggested. This is about affirming that we as North Dakotans and Americans believe in the most basic of human rights. It is We the People, not we the employees.

A vaccine mandate is not a dress code. It is the injection of manufactured substances into a person's body, potentially against her will.

And the essence of a human right is that it applies to all people – regardless of religion or occupation. Are nurses and long-term care providers less human than lawyers or politicians?

'Take the shots or we take your livelihood' is not a choice. 'Inject your children or they'll be cast aside' is inhumane. 'Show me your private medical information or be exiled' is un-American.

It is a shame that Representative Ertelt's bill 21.1114.02000 was not advanced by the Delayed Bills committee, but it is not too late to embrace the simplicity and the equality for all afforded by that bill which was modeled after North Dakota law that stood for over 50 years. Refer to the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly Regular Session, Chapter 236 – Vaccination from the year 1919 at the height of the pandemic a century ago.

I implore you to act and to encourage your fellow legislators to affirm that North Dakota is a state that fights for the fundamental human rights of its citizens.