



Joint Technical Corrections Committee

HB 1510

November 9, 2021

Chair Lee, Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, my name is Joan Connell. I am a pediatrician in Bismarck and I'm president of the North Dakota Medical Association's 6th District Medical Society. I present this testimony on behalf of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA opposes this bill, which is based on a bill passed in Montana. Although COVID-19 immunizations were probably the source of the bill, it applies to all vaccines, includes those against measles, influenza, pertussis, and hepatitis B. This bill would prohibit hospitals and clinics from mandating any vaccines. In the healthcare setting, mandating vaccines for healthcare workers as a condition of employment is a common policy that was initially prompted by the goals of protecting patients from health care-acquired influenza and to protecting the workplace from the disruption and expense of worker illnesses.

Page 3, line 23 of the bill contains an exemption from compliance if it would result in a violation of regulations or guidance issued by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, but only for a licensed nursing home, long-term care facility, basic care facility or assisted living facility. NDMA requests that all healthcare facilities be included in this exemption. Late last week CMS issued details on the emergency regulation requiring COVID-19 vaccination for health workers. The regulation covers what most people would consider traditional health care settings such as Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Community Mental Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, Home Health Agencies, Hospices, Hospitals, Clinics, Rural Health Clinics/Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Long Term Care facilities.

NDMA requests a DO NOT PASS recommendation on the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Joan Connell, MD MPH FAAP

701-425-2067

jmconnell@msn.com