

Chairman Weisz, Madame Chair, members of the committee, for the record I am Bob Paulson, and I represent District 3 in Minot.

HB 1510 is a bill modeled after the Montana law, and it makes it unlawful to discriminate based on vaccination status. I believe that this bill provides the best protection for North Dakota citizens making a personal, private medical decision of whether or not to receive the COVID vaccine.

This bill does not prevent an employer from asking, encouraging or even incentivizing someone to get the vaccine. What it does is prevent them from being coerced to get it.

It allows a health care facility to ask an employee to volunteer their immunization status, and if the employee refuses, the health care facility can assume the employee is not vaccinated and implement reasonable accommodations.

It exempts Long Term Care facilities if compliance would violate CMS regulations.

It does not effect current required childhood immunizations, however it does stipulate that the COVID-19 vaccines will not be added to the list of required childhood immunizations.

Given the uncertainty created by the overreach of the federal government and the desire of companies to comply in order to not to be fined, I believe it is imperative that we pass this law to protect the citizens of North Dakota from having to choose between providing for their families and getting a vaccine for which the long term consequences are unknown.

I would respectfully ask for a Do Pass recommendation, and I would stand for any questions.