



**HB 1505**  
**Testimony of Amy De Kok**  
**House Human Services**  
**February 7, 2023**

Chairman Weisz and members of the committee, my name is Amy De Kok. I am General Counsel for the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents all North Dakota public school districts and their boards. NDSBA stands in opposition to HB 1505.

If passed, HB 1505 would prohibit any person, employer, or governmental entity from requiring an individual to obtain a vaccination or inoculation as a condition for the individual to exercise any right, perform any duty or enjoy any privilege. The North Dakota Constitution guarantees every child who resides in North Dakota the right to a free and appropriate public education. North Dakota law provides that a child may not be admitted to any public, private or parochial school unless the child's parent or guardian presents to the school a certification from a licensed physician that the child has received age-appropriate immunizations. These requirements are found in NDCC 27-07-17.1. The law also provides exemptions to these requirements. Indeed, North Dakota already has one of the most relaxed school immunization policies in the country. North Dakota allows medical, religious, and moral/philosophical exemptions. HB 1505 would have the effect of removing all immunization requirements for employers, healthcare facilities, schools, universities, and more settings where diseases spread.

Our schools serve arguably the most vulnerable population of citizens. Parents entrust their children to our schools to protect them and keep them safe from harm, especially preventable harm. If passed, HB 1505 will make it difficult for schools to keep kids and their employees safe and protected from the spread of vaccine preventable diseases, like measles, mumps, and rubella. School immunization requirements play an important role in increasing immunization rates and ensuring environments where children congregate are safe.

For these reasons, NDSBA urges a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1505, and I am happy to stand for any questions. Thank you for your time.