
Good morning, Chairwoman Lee and the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Sandra Tibke, and I am the Executive Director of the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota.

I am providing testimony in opposition to SB 2384.

Research around mRNA vaccines is incredibly promising and has been underway for over a decade¹; from cancer to zoonotic diseases such as Ebola and rabies, mRNA vaccines look to be an increasingly important key for prevention and treatment.² Current mRNA vaccines are safe and effective.^{3,4}

This bill would create a new section to chapter 12.1-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, prohibiting the use of messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccines. Given the promise of mRNA technology in preventing and treating several serious illnesses, the Foundation is concerned that prohibiting mRNA vaccines may cause unintended consequences in the future as research makes new mRNA vaccines ready for administration.

The implications for increased morbidity and mortality from preventable cancers alone will impact generations of North Dakotans. Limiting North Dakotans' medical treatment options is not the way to ensure long, healthy lives for individuals in our state.

We also stand by medical providers' and consumers' freedom to recommend or choose preventative medical treatment, including mRNA vaccines. This bill unnecessarily limits that liberty for medical providers and consumers in our state.

The Foundation strongly urges a no vote on SB 2384.

Thank you for your time.

References

1. Pardi N, Hogan MJ, Porter FW, Weissman D. (January 12, 2018). *mRNA vaccines – a new era in vaccinology*. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery 17, 261–279. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrd.2017.243>
2. Penn Medicine. (2022). *World-changing mRNA vaccines from Penn Medicine*. Retrieved February 6, 2023 from <https://www.pennmedicine.org/mrna>

3. Rosenblum HG, et al. (2022). *Safety of mRNA vaccines administered during the initial 6 months of the US COVID-19 vaccination programme: an observational study of reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and v-safe*. *The Lancet* 22(6), 802-812.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(22\)00054-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(22)00054-8)
4. Whiting, A. (December 11, 2020). *Five things you need to know about: mRNA vaccine safety*. *Horizon: The EU Research & Innovation Magazine*. Retrieved February 6, 2023 from <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/five-things-you-need-know-about-mrna-vaccine-safety>