



**Testimony of Dr. Ethan Andress  
State Veterinarian  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Fort Lincoln  
February 7, 2023**

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Chairperson Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Dr. Ethan Andress, State Veterinarian. I am here today on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and the North Dakota Board of Animal Health in opposition to SB 2384.

Under NDCC Chapter 4.1-43 Livestock Medicine, the Agriculture Commissioner is responsible for regulating and registering livestock medicine including vaccines for animals. The State Veterinarian's Office reviews all labels and ingredients as outlined in NDCC for approval.

This bill would prohibit the use or administration of mRNA vaccines in not only individuals (humans), but also mammals in ND. I appreciate the concern and potential dangers of the rapid rollout of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Research and safety to assure all mRNA products are safe is essential. With that said, prohibition would eliminate a potentially powerful platform for disease control. Research in this field creates amazing opportunities for stopping certain diseases in humans and animals. Many companies are working to use this unique platform to address some of our greatest disease challenges such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease, and endemic Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus of Cattle. If successful, mRNA vaccine could transform how we deal with these and many other diseases. We would like to see continued investigation and development of new technologies to deal with these critical risks to society.

Chairperson Lee and committee members, thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.