



## **Senate Judiciary Committee**

**SB 2260**

**January 24, 2023**

Chair Larson and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele and represent 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 SB 2260.

Under long-standing policies and procedures, all hospitals, clinics and physicians obtain consent from the parent when treating a minor. However, the consent is not always written. Many times, the parent is not the person bringing the child to the appointment. As the bill is written, a doctor would have to get a written consent form from a parent before examining a child, or prescribing medication to a child, even though the parent is bringing the child to the appointment or picking up the prescription. This is an unnecessary additional requirement in an environment that is already highly regulated and monitored.

There are many exceptions in North Dakota century code for minor's ability to consent to medical care. For example, ND Cent Code 14-10-07, allows for any person 14 years or older to receive treatment for a sexually transmitted disease, alcoholism, or drug abuse without consent from their parent. Is it the intent of this bill to overrule that long-standing policy?

NDMA urges a DO NOT PASS of SB 2260. Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions.