

House Human Service Committee
Feb 5th, 2025 HB 1391
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Ruby and the members of the House Human Service Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1391.

Some reporting by [North Dakota Monitor in August of last year](#), revealed the unfortunate trend of less youth being fully vaccinated against preventable diseases. Nationally, we have seen a rise in [such things like Polio, due to anti-vaccination beliefs](#).

While I think reasonable people could understand the concerns individuals have around such vaccines like COVID, the panic that centered on COVID vaccinations has created distrust in our medical institutes that we’ve relied on for decades to keep our populations safe.

In this time vaccine misinformation has stoked fear and led to an abandoning of public health practices that saved lives. While our governments choose not to make COVID vaccines mandatory, people’s choice to not get vaccinated resulted in several hundred thousand preventable deaths by many different estimates, some showing even greater impact. But that data does require trusting public health organizations, which I understand is a poor argument for folks who take an anti-vax position.

Regardless, to balance the liberty people enjoy with their risk of harming their kids or neighbors, we imposed restrictions based on their vaccine status. This balances public health against the harm people pose who willingly spread diseases. As the statement has echoed across law theory for some time, a person’s right to infect me should stop at my nose.

I work in healthcare and would prefer further restrictions to protect vulnerable populations, especially people’s children from the harm of things like Polio or Whooping Cough. I believe vaccines should be mandatory. But the compromise we’ve come to as a society is to let someone who wishes to go against public health do so, but also to be barred from hurting others for their choices.

What HB 1391 does is give people the freedom to infect. It empowers separatists who want to benefit from a society, while holding no responsibility towards it. And as we think about public health, society, and liberty we must as adults understand there must be compromise. There are several aspects of society that are not exactly how I’d like them, but I understand there is some consensus to this of give and take. And in this regard, I urge a Do not Pass.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler