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**Testimony of Dr. Ethan Andress**  
**State Veterinarian**  
**House Human Services**  
**Pioneer Room**  
**February 4, 2025**

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Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Dr. Ethan Andress, State Veterinarian here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and the State Board of Animal Health. I am here today in opposition to HB 1458, relating to self-spreading viruses.

HB 1458 has serious implications to animal agriculture. This bill will create a layer of unnecessary bureaucracy that limits North Dakota's animal health professionals and producers, challenges our research of technology to face disease, and complicates our ability to respond to not only animal health emergencies, but also common viruses and bacteria.

Many of our agricultural recombinant and modified-live products, including modified-live respiratory vaccines, brucellosis, and anthrax vaccines, have been used effectively for many decades. Responding to foreign animal diseases, like Highly Pathogenic Influenza, will require products outlined in this bill.

Regulatory authority for registering these products has been given to the Commissioner and Board of Animal Health. Commercial products have

gone through rigorous testing and safety studies. New vaccines must go through safety protocols with the Center of Veterinary Biologics with USDA and require additional reporting to the state veterinarian's office.

Chairman Ruby and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do not pass on HB 1458. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.