



House Human Services Committee

HB 1458

February 4, 2025

Chairman Ruby and Committee Members, I'm Courtney Koebele and I serve as executive director of 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 HB 1458 for the following reasons:

- Live attenuated vaccines contain a small amount of live virus that has been weakened and although they can transmit to others through shedding, this is much milder than natural disease. Further, the likelihood of this occurring is low.
- Routinely recommended live attenuated vaccines include the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, the varicella or chickenpox vaccine, the rotavirus vaccine, and the nasal spray flu vaccine. These vaccines have prevented many cases of diseases and saved millions of lives.
- Parents should have the right to choose what they deem best for their children, including the decision to vaccinate them without fear of punishment from the law and the potential burden of a five thousand dollar penalty.

- No explanation for proof of causation of the defined self-spreading virus is defined in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions.