



HB 1454
House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
January 29, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Warrey and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, my name is Sandy Tibke. I am the Executive Director of the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota. FHND opposes HB1454.

HB1454 would eliminate all college, childcare, and school immunization documentation requirements because these vaccines are included in Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) and, therefore, could not be required. North Dakota has had school immunization requirements since 1975. Childcare, school, and university immunization requirements play an important role in maintaining immunization rates and ensuring the safety of environments where children and students congregate.

North Dakota already has one of the most relaxed childcare and school immunization policies in the United States. NDCC 23-07-17.1 allows medical, religious, and moral/philosophical exemptions. To claim a religious, moral/philosophical exemption, parents simply have to sign a document prior to school entry. North Dakota is one of only 15 states that allow moral/philosophical exemptions; many of the other states that allow philosophical exemptions require a notary signature or education from a healthcare provider before claiming an exemption. Four states allow medical exemptions and don't offer religious or philosophical exemptions. States that have easily obtained personal belief exemptions have higher rates of pertussis and measles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.