



Senate Human Services Committee
SB 2294
January 29, 2025

Good morning, Chair Lee and Committee Members. I am 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 is opposed to SB 2294. This bill allows persons over 50 to bypass medical certification. This category of patients is uniquely susceptible because of the number of chronic conditions and medications in that age category.

At this point we don't know if the certification process is a barrier, but there are good public health reasons to keep the certification process in the law.

Marijuana is an addictive drug that can have significant adverse public health impacts, particularly if used in combination with medications a patient may already be prescribed. Or is the goal to have access to medical marijuana for non-medicinal purposes? This bill has that effect in allowing people over age 50 to directly apply for a medical marijuana card without any health care professional oversight.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.