

March 17, 2025

Dear Chairman Barta, Vice Chairman Boehm, and members of the Senate Business and Industry Committee:

My name is Ann Fritz and I am a resident of Bismarck, District 7. I am sorry I am not able to present my testimony in person to you today, but I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony.

I am expressing my strong opposition to HB 1391 relating to creating a new status, "health status", related to North Dakota human rights and antidiscrimination policies. Discrimination typically involves unfair treatment based on inherent characteristics like race or gender for example. Vaccination and refusal of medical treatment is a *voluntary choice* that can have deadly consequences not only to that individual, but to entire communities. We need look no further than current measles outbreaks in Texas, New Mexico and cases elsewhere in the U.S. where more than 300 people have been infected and 95% of those infected are unvaccinated¹.

I am afraid that this bill will have potentially unintended bad public health consequences for our future. It will be costly and almost impossible to implement, and disastrous for schools and daycares, as well as senior communities and everywhere we wish the vulnerable and immunocompromised members of our communities to be safe from potential infection of vaccine preventable diseases. The bill seems to be simply a reaction to the COVID "vaccine mandates" that was, hopefully, a once in a lifetime global pandemic event.

I urge you please send a clear DO NOT PASS message to your colleagues in the Senate regarding HB 1391. Thank you for your careful consideration of this, and all bills that are before the Committee.

With gratitude,

Ann Fritz

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>. Page accessed March 17, 2025