

2009 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1215

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1215

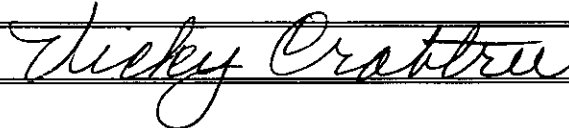
House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 19, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7195 25 min. 15 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz called the hearing to order on HB 1215.

Rep. Uglem, from District 19 introduced bill and testified in support: This bill is to allow paramedics and MTIs to administer influenza vaccinations.

Chairman Weisz: We would just limit to paramedics?

Rep. Uglem: Just paramedics.

Mona Thompson, a paramedic and Director of Kidder County Ambulance Service:

testified in support. **See attached Testimony #1.**

Rep. Conrad: Are you saying this is the only (inaudible) form your own volunteer (inaudible).

Mona Thompson: The county district health unit nurses give it for the counties. If the county did not offer that service or (inaudible) hospitals so the paramedics could give the flu vaccination, yes they would be able to give it to the public.

Tim Meyer, Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma for the ND Dept. of Health: Testified in support. **See Testimony #2.**

Chairman Weisz: Paramedics beyond the hospitals, technically they are under supervision of administering the vaccination?

Tim Meyer: All paramedics work under a physician medical director.

Rep. Nathe: Are you thinking more on the lines for a pandemic situation (inaudible) administrate it. How do you interpret that?

Tim Meyer: If we have a pandemic situation, the governor can waive policy (inaudible). I would say something separate from that.

Duane Houdek, Executive Director of the ND State Board of Medical Examiners: gave neutral testimony. **See Testimony #3.**

Rep. Kilichowski: Our county nurse goes out to the different communities. Would this allow a paramedic in sawed off part of the county to set up a community center and give the community their shots?

Duane Houdek: It appears to me that it will.

Rep. Potter: You said you had a concern about allergic reactions that would be a problem with the paramedic's situation. Did I understand you correctly?

Duane Meyer: I wasn't referencing any specific thing, but there are all sorts of things that could happen anytime you inject a drug into someone. It's not just the technique on how to give a shot, it's requiring to know drug interactions.

Rep. Potter: When someone goes down to county health, I don't think they have a physician there for someone who might have a reaction.

Duane Meyer: Other representative to the nursing board here who could explain better than I can.

Chairman Weisz: The pharmacists aren't under supervision from anybody else or physician, is that correct?

Tim Meyer: Yes, that is true.

Arnold Thomas, President of ND Healthcare Association: had neutral testimony. **See Testimony #4.**

Buzz Benson, RN President of the ND Board of Nursing: had neutral testimony. **See**

Testimony #5.

Rep. Conrad: Will you send us a copy of decision by the board?

Buzz Benson: We will do that.

No opposition. Hearing closed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1215

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 27, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7913 2 min. 50 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Chairman Wesiz asked Rep. Uglem if he had met with subcommittee yet. Rep. Uglem stated they would meet on January 27 at 4 pm.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1215

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 28, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8064 9 min. 30 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature

Thicky Crabtree

Minutes:

Rep. Uglen called sub-committee meeting to order on HB 1215. We have an amendment to the bill before us, which is hoghouse (inaudible) bill. I have talked to Chip Thomas who represents hospitals and he says, go ahead, rewrites are ok with him.

(Chatter between Rep. Holman, Rep. Frantsvog and Rep. Uglen).

And I have also talked to Bruce Levi who represents the ND medical Association and he says go ahead with it. The rewrite pretty much mirrors pharmacist's language. Pharmacists are allowed to administer vaccines. (Chatter between representatives). Looked at first of the rewrite. Was crossed out and who are working in a non-emergency setting. No one was opposed to crossing that out.

Rep. Holman: Scope of practice (inaudible) moves it into regulation anyway.

Rep. Uglen, Rep. Holman, and Rep. Frantsvog: all said they are comfortable with it.

Rep. Uglen: Section 2, part of the amendment, it is a rewrite based on pharmacists language. Pharmacists language is age 18 because of fear of allergic reactions to the vaccines.
(Discussion about paramedics qualified to handle allergic reactions).

Rep. Uglen: I'd be comfortable taking that out..

Rep. Frantsvog: I wonder if doesn't deal with some liability if someone is under 18.

Rep. Holman: The decision making of a 17 year old probably technically can't make the decision. Eliminates need for consent by making it 18.

Rep. Uglem: I'm willing to go either way.

Rep. Frantsvog: We are only dealing with influenza vaccines.

Rep. Uglem: An ambulance can go out and have an influenza vaccine at the community center in a small town where there isn't a clinic. A paramedic would be taking care of that.

Rep. Holman: A flu vaccine to a minor is rare in itself.

Rep. Frantsvog: I kind of like the 18 personally.

Rep. Holman: I'll go along with that.

Rep. Uglem: Another concern brought up to me, is Section 2, Subparagraph 2. Does the dept. have to develop a course for the paramedics?

Rep. Holman: Is develop the appropriate word?

Rep. Uglem: That's the word in the pharmacist's language.

Rep. Frantsvog: (Inaudible) administer vaccines?

Rep. Uglem: Yes. Maybe it should be approved.

Rep. Holman: That's what I'm thinking and then the dept refers to.

Rep. Frantsvog: I like the work approved better too. And the dept. wants to develop a plan?

Rep. Uglem: Yeah.

Rep. Holman: (Inaudible) completed and approved course on administering vaccines would make it (inaudible) open.

Rep. Frantsvog: Let's leave it with Dept.

Rep. Uglem: Put approved in there?

Rep. Frantsvog and Rep. Holman: both agreed.

Rep. Holman: move to changing Section 2, part 2, to replace the word developed by the word approved.

Rep. Frantsovog: Second.

Rep. Uglem: Amendment before us.

Voice Vote: 3 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent

Motion carried to change the word "developed" to "approved".

Rep. Uglem: We should now have a motion for a complete rewrite on HB 1215 moved amended version.

Rep. Frantsovog: motion to accept new rewrite on HB 1215.

Rep. Holman: Second.

Voice Vote: 3 yeas, 0 no, 0 absent.

Motioned carried.

Meeting adjourned.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1215

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 2, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 8342 7 min. 37 sec.

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Weisz: I believe everyone has amendments. Rep. Uglem would you explain the amendments.

Rep. Uglem: The hoghouse on the amendments, we first had amendments drawn up by the Health Dept and went through it and decided to keep the 18 years of age in as a

subcommittee. The Legislative Council had about 4 different word changes to bring it current with law. The amendments before you allow paramedics only in the hospital or in emergency medical services to administer influenza vaccinations.

Rep. Uglem: motioned to accept the amendments.

Rep. Frantsvog: second.

Chairman Weisz: We have a whole new section. It applies only to individuals over age 18 as far as they can give the (inaudible) children.

Rep. Uglem: Both Chip Thomas and (inaudible) reviewed the amendments and were comfortable with it.

Rep. Conrad: (Inaudible).

Rep. Uglem: More that it is limited to paramedics (inaudible) and we were more comfortable with the age over 18. The requirements also are limited to age 18.

Chairman Weisz: We're not changing the current law with the hospital (inaudible).

Rep. Conrad: When I heard about the (inaudible) emergency management, that caused me a little concern (inaudible) to establish the protocol. The supervisory position that would just establish the procedures.

Chairman Weisz: Either the hospital or physician has to establish the protocol.

Rep. Porter: The comment they made in regard to the medical directors was, leaned specifically towards that services licensed at (inaudible) court level. A service that has a paramedic already has to have a significant relationship with a physician and written protocols with the physician in order to be out there working.

Rep. Conrad: Thank you, that helps.

Voice Vote: 12 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. **Rep. Damschen**

Rep. Conrad: motioned a DO PASS on amended bill.

Rep. Pietsch: second.

Roll Call Vote: 12 yes, 0, 1 absent, **Rep. Damschen.**

Bill Carrier: Rep. Uglem.

Date: 1-28-09
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1215

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By _____ **Seconded By** _____

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 3 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

to change word "developed"
to "approved"
Motion passed

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1215

House HUMAN SERVICES☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By _____ **Seconded By** _____

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 3 No 0

Absent 2

Bill Carrier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

motion to accept new rewrite of
HB 1215
motion passed

VR
2/2/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1215

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "create and enact a new section to chapter 23-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to influenza vaccinations administered by emergency medical technicians-paramedics; and to"

Page 1, line 2, replace "immunizations administered by" with "supervision of"

Page 1, line 8, overstrike "and who are working in a nonemergency setting"

Page 1, line 9, remove "and may"

Page 1, line 10, remove "administer influenza vaccinations"

Page 1, after line 11 insert:

"SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 23-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Administration of Influenza vaccination.

1. A licensed emergency medical technician-paramedic working for a hospital or an emergency medical services operation may administer the influenza vaccine to an individual who is at least eighteen years of age if:
 - a. The physician providing oversight for the emergency medical services operation or the hospital medical director has established protocols that meet department standards that may be based on the advisory committee on immunization practices of the federal centers for disease control and prevention; and
 - b. The emergency medical technician-paramedic has satisfactorily completed a department-approved course on administering vaccines.
2. If a hospital or emergency medical services operation allows the administration of vaccines under this section, the hospital or emergency medical services operation shall maintain records documenting the emergency medical technician-paramedic's completion of the training required under subsection 1. These records are subject to review by the department."

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-2-09
Roll Call Vote #: /

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1215

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By _____ Seconded By _____

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|-------------------------|-----|----|
| CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ | | | REP. TOM CONKLIN | | |
| VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH | | | REP. KARI L CONRAD | | |
| REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN | | | REP. RICHARD HOLMAN | | |
| REP. ROBERT FRANTSVOG | | | REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI | | |
| REP. CURT HOFSTAD | | | REP. LOUISE POTTER | | |
| REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE | | | | | |
| REP. TODD PORTER | | | | | |
| REP. GERRY UGLEM | | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Bill Carrier _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Motion to accept

Date: 2-2-09
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1215

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended

Motion Made By Rep Conrad Seconded By Rep Pietsch

| Representatives | Yes | No | Representatives | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|-------------------------|-----|----|
| CHAIRMAN ROBIN WEISZ | ✓ | | REP. TOM CONKLIN | ✓ | |
| VICE-CHAIR VONNIE PIETSCH | ✓ | | REP. KARI L CONRAD | ✓ | |
| REP. CHUCK DAMSCHEN | ✓ | | REP. RICHARD HOLMAN | ✓ | |
| REP. ROBERT FRANTSGOG | ✓ | | REP. ROBERT KILICHOWSKI | ✓ | |
| REP. CURT HOFSTAD | ✓ | | REP. LOUISE POTTER | ✓ | |
| REP. MICHAEL R. NATHE | ✓ | | | | |
| REP. TODD PORTER | ✓ | | | | |
| REP. GERRY UGLEM | ✓ | | | | |
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Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1 Rep Damschen

Bill Carrier Rep. Uglem

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1215: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1215 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "to" insert "create and enact a new section to chapter 23-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to influenza vaccinations administered by emergency medical technicians-paramedics; and to"

Page 1, line 2, replace "immunizations administered by" with "supervision of"

Page 1, line 8, overstrike "and who are working in a nonemergency setting"

Page 1, line 9, remove "and may"

Page 1, line 10, remove "administer influenza vaccinations"

Page 1, after line 11 insert:

"SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 23-27 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

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 - a. The physician providing oversight for the emergency medical services operation or the hospital medical director has established protocols that meet department standards that may be based on the advisory committee on immunization practices of the federal centers for disease control and prevention; and
 - b. The emergency medical technician-paramedic has satisfactorily completed a department-approved course on administering vaccines.
2. If a hospital or emergency medical services operation allows the administration of vaccines under this section, the hospital or emergency medical services operation shall maintain records documenting the emergency medical technician-paramedic's completion of the training required under subsection 1. These records are subject to review by the department."

Renumber accordingly

2009 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1215

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1215

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 03/11/2009

Recorder Job Number: 10707

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K. Morrison

Minutes:

Chairman J. Lee Opened the hearing on HB 1215.

Representative Gerry Uglem District #19. Spoke in support of 1215. See attachment #1.

Senator Heckaman If they administer the vaccine, are they helping other public health people doing this? Where are they getting the vaccine from?

Uglem The vaccine will either be coming through their medical director, through public health or whoever the paramedics are working under.

Senator Dever Regarding other vaccines, is billing an issue?

Uglem The billing problem was not addressed in this bill.

Senator Dever So this is to enable paramedics to do this independently?

Uglem No, it is to administer vaccines under supervision.

Senator Erbele Do you know what other injections they are allowed to do now?

Uglem They are trained to do intramuscular injections in emergency situations.

Representative Todd Porter District #34. Spoke in support of 1215. I am a paramedic. From a training perspective, to answer some of your previous questions, we are trained to do some injections—listed the types. From an injection standpoint, these injections are not over the skills of a trained paramedic. One of the reasons that this came about is due to the

administration of flu shots. Spoke about different flu shot incidents that brought this bill about and the ramifications of flu shots for paramedic procedures.

Senator Heckaman The 18 years of age clause, what happens if you need to immunize and there are children present?

Porter It certainly isn't something that needs to be in there but it is there to take a bit of the contention out that concerned some people.

Senator Heckaman The bill before us is significantly different than the bill as introduced, do you support this version?

Porter I am supporting the bill as amended. The engrossed version is the way it needs to be.

Senator Dever Are EMTs employed by hospitals in ND?

Porter Yes we do in some rural areas. Explained how paramedics are employed in some areas.

Tim Meyer Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services in the ND Department of Health. Spoke in support of 1215. See attachment #2.

Senator Heckaman If you are in a rural setting without a clinic or nurse, can the EMTs in that area purchase their own vaccine or does it have to be supplied by a hospital?

Meyer In pharmacy laws it states that EMS departments cannot purchase vaccinations independently, the pharmacist must have oversight of the drug. Explained how a rural EMS would deal with those issues.

Senator Heckaman Would this add any cost?

Meyer I would imagine it would not. We do not really address the financial aspect of this. Gave example of EMS personnel giving shots to their own staff.

Senator Heckaman Would this affect other vaccines?

Meyer This is only limited to influenza. Also addressed the issue of age—18 is used to be consistent with pharmacy law.

Buzz Benson President of NDBON. Spoke in support of 1215. See attachment #3.

There was no neutral or opposition testimony given.

Senator Erbele Closed the hearing on HB 1215

Job #10709

Senator Heckaman I move **Do Pass**

Senator Marcellais Second

The Clerk called the role on the motion to **Do Pass. Yes: 6, No: 0, Absent: 0.**

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

Date: 3/11/09

Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1215

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations

☐ Adopt Amendment ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Heckaman Seconded By Sen. Marcellais

| Senators | Yes | No | Senators | Yes | No |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|----------------------------|-----|----|
| Senator Judy Lee, Chairman | ✓ | | Senator Joan Heckaman | ✓ | |
| Senator Robert Erbele, V.Chair | ✓ | | Senator Richard Marcellais | ✓ | |
| Senator Dick Dever | ✓ | | Senator Jim Pomeroy | ✓ | |
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Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Marcellais

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1215, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HB 1215 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1215

#1

HB 1215

January 19, 2009

Testimony – Human Services Committee
Kidder County EMS
Mona Thompson EMT-P

Good Morning Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Mona Thompson, I am a paramedic and director of Kidder County Ambulance Service. I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1215.

I support the intentions of this bill, however I believe this bill limits which paramedics are able to administer influenza vaccinations. I believe N.D.C.C.23-27-04.4 limits this to only paramedics working in a hospital setting. I would like to see all paramedics able to administer vaccinations. I would like to see this moved to a new section within chapter 23-27 and limit the practice to paramedics. Intramuscular (IM) injections are already part of the Paramedics scope of practice so I believe paramedics would only need education on the specific vaccination to be administered. IM injections are not part of the EMT-Intermediate scope of practice that is why I would limit the practice to paramedics only.

If an ambulance service is not affiliated with a hospital there is a good chance they do not receive influenza vaccinations. If we could allow all paramedics to administer vaccinations, they could offer vaccinations to EMS providers in their area, making it easier to vaccinate all EMS providers.

Chairman Weisz, thank you for this opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer questions the committee may have.

**Testimony
House Bill 1215
House Human Services Committee
Monday, January 19, 2007; 9 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health**

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Tim Meyer, and I am director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1215.

While the Department of Health supports House Bill 1215, we have identified several potential issues with the bill as written.

- 1) Placing the language in N.D.C.C. 23-27-04.4 would limit where EMS personnel could administer influenza vaccinations. That section of the century code deals only with emergency medical services (EMS) personnel working in hospitals. Placing the language in that section appears to allow EMS personnel to give immunizations only while working in hospitals.
- 2) Emergency medical technicians – intermediates are not trained in the technique of giving injections. Paramedics, however, have had that training.

To address our concerns, we ask that the enabling language be moved to a new section within chapter 23-27 and limit the practice to paramedics who take an additional training course on administering vaccines developed by the Department of Health.

Finally, the Department of Health asks that “and who are working in a nonemergency setting” in line 8 be struck. This change would be less confusing for the medical and EMS community.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

[Handwritten signature]

Duane Houdek
Executive Secretary and Treasurer

Lynette McDonald
Deputy Executive Secretary

Established 1890

Phone (701) 328-6500 • Fax (701) 328-6505
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HOUSE BILL 1215

BEFORE THE HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2009

NEUTRAL TESTIMONY WITH REGARD TO HB 1215
BY THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
Duane Houdek, Executive Secretary

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Duane Houdek, Executive Secretary of the North Dakota State Board of Medical Examiners. The Board is charged by statute to regulate the practice of medicine in the state.

I would like to make two observations with regard to HB 1215. First, although rules governing the administration of influenza vaccines by EMT's and paramedics may be contemplated in this bill by reference to the Health Department's scope of practice, there is no explicit requirement that EMT's have the necessary knowledge or training to administer these vaccines. I would ask the committee to refer to 43-15-31.5, NDCC, which regulates the administration of injections by pharmacists. There, you will see that 20 initial hours of education are required in the area of immunology, immunities, adverse effects, dosage and administration before a pharmacist may provide any injection. Six hours of continuing education every two years are also required.

Secondly, can the need that is sought to be addressed by this bill be addressed better by further support of existing mechanisms for administering influenza vaccines, for example, expansion of the existing county health programs?

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

Mission Statement

The Board's mission is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating the practice of medicine, thereby ensuring quality health care for the citizens of this state.

#4

NDHA

North Dakota Healthcare Association

Vision

The North Dakota Healthcare Association will take an active leadership role in major healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Healthcare Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

Testimony on HB 1215

January 19, 2009

Members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Arnold Thomas, President of the North Dakota Healthcare Association (NDHA). I am here today to speak in a neutral capacity on HB 1215.

NDHA supports patient services provided by intermediate and advanced trained emergency personnel in hospital settings. Under the supervision of Patient Services Directors and the hospitals medical staff, we believe these trained professionals can and do fill an important role on the hospital patient service team.

I do not know if the current scope of practice for intermediate and advanced emergency service provider prohibits vaccinations. If the purpose of this bill is to allow hospital based intermediate and advanced trained emergency personnel to vaccinate under the supervision requirements set forth in this section, we see no detriment to patient care.

However, we would have questions about medical oversight and patient safety if this bill seeks to extend this privilege to environments other than a hospital.

#5



NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

919 S 7th St., Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504-5881

Telephone: (701) 328-9777 Fax: (701) 328-9785

Web Site Address: <http://www.ndbon.org>

Workplace Impairment Program: (701) 328-9783

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on HB 1215 related to immunizations administered by emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

My name is Buzz Benson RN, President of the NDBON. The Board has not taken a position on this proposed legislation. We will be meeting on Thursday and will discuss at that time.

The Board does have a several questions:

1. Is this intended for single immunizations when individuals are being discharged from the hospital?
2. Or is this for immunizations provided by the local public health units?
3. Who provides training for this purpose?
4. Does this include children immunizations or just adults?

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. As I indicated earlier, the NDBON will be meeting on Thursday & Friday this week and will discuss this legislation. I am now open questions.

HB 1215

#1

Chairman Lee, Committee Members

I am Gerry Uglem, District 19 representative

The first section of HB 1215 deletes language which has created a gray area as to who the paramedic is working for when he or she enters an emergency room in a hospital he or she is employed in. It is the hospitals nurse executive, not the ambulance service medical director.

Section 2 is the reason for this bill. It adds a section of law to the paramedics chapter giving paramedics the authority to administer influenza vaccinations. Paramedics already have training to administer injections, so adding the influenza vaccination will require a minimum amount of training.

2

Testimony
House Bill 1215
Senate Human Services Committee
Wednesday, March 11, 2007; 9 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Lee and members of the committee. My name is Tim Meyer, and I am director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1215.

Section one of the bill removes language that has confused hospitals and paramedics who work in hospitals. The use of the term "nonemergency setting" that is currently in statute seems to allow emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to work in a hospital, but not in the emergency room. However, the emergency room is the most likely and appropriate place EMS personnel would work. Removal of this language should clear up any misunderstandings in this practice.

Section two of the bill allows paramedics to administer influenza vaccinations. This was amended in the House to address concerns from the Department of Health regarding training, protocols, record keeping and oversight. The current version of the bill satisfies the department's concerns and meets the national standards for vaccinations.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

919 S 7th St., Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504-5881

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Workplace Impairment Program: (701) 328-9783

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on HB 1215 related to immunizations administered by emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

My name is Buzz Benson RN, President of the NDBON. The Board supports the Engrossed HB 1215. The Board had concerns with the initial legislation related to the training and supervision requirements for EMTs and Paramedics to provide immunizations which seems to be addressed in the current legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. The Board and I remain available to provide further detail to assist you and the committee in this deliberation. Simply call me for further information.

I am now open questions.