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Senator Judy Lee, Vice Chair
House Human Services Committee

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Support for HB1307, Relating to Service without Vaccinations

The SARS-COV-2 pandemic affected and continues to affect every North Dakota citizen, either directly or indirectly. While some have seriously suffered from the illness, others have suffered from the unnecessary pressure placed on citizens to compromise personal health every day. North Dakota citizens have endured through the faulty testing measures, the extended quarantines, the threats of losing jobs or getting kicked out of public accommodations if not wearing pieces of fabric on the face, and the stress associated with losing a loved one or trying to make sure someone they care about stays healthy.

While some precautionary measures have been healthy, others have not been safe or appropriate. I personally know individuals who have been threatened by store management when not wearing masks for medical reasons. I personally know individuals who have been refused service at highly recognized stores, even though they have a medical exemption and cannot wear a mask. Medically exempt individuals have personal rights to keep personal health matters private but still get questioned constantly or kicked out of establishments that they have every right to be buying consumer goods from. Individuals in the public have turned into private investigators, with false assumed permission to dig into other citizens personal health matters. Although it is illegal to refuse service to anyone not wearing a mask for medical reasons, it commonly happens in the state.

Being forced to wear a mask to shop seems to be trivial when compared with being forced to be vaccinated in order to shop or attend a public accommodation. This is unethical and violates our 14th Amendment Constitutional rights to pursue life, liberty and property. It also violates our Constitutional 1st Amendment rights by prohibiting free exercise of religion, for those who have religious convictions about vaccinations.

Although forced vaccinations are clear violations of Constitutional rights, I believe passing a bill that explicitly states it is illegal to refuse service to individuals based on vaccination records, would be in the best interest of the public. Bringing attention to this issue will help prevent further conflict with citizens and public accomodation management, school systems, and workplaces. It would be in the best interest of the state to not set a precedent that the feelings of the collective outweigh the rights of the individual. Please support and pass HB1307. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.