



House Human Services Committee

HB 1377

January 25, 2021

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, I am Dr. Misty Anderson, president of the ND Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA opposes HB 1377 and recommends a DO NOT PASS.

This bill creates vaccine safety standards at an unreasonable level. The Food and Drug Administration already applies a stringent approval process and through this process safety is paramount. The vaccine development process has been refined through the years and we know from past experience that the overwhelming majority of serious adverse events related to vaccination occur within weeks of receiving the vaccine.

Other provisions such as requiring the state health department to track vaccine injuries and disabilities would be redundant and added expense, since this is already tracked at the federal level.

More importantly, it takes a step backward in the face of public health by eliminating vaccine requirements for school-age children and health care institutions. The chances of a child getting a case of measles or chickenpox or whooping cough is low today due to the immunization requirements we have in place today. Let's continue to keep our children protected.

Based on these concerns, we recommend a DO NOT PASS on HB 1377.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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