

My name is Linda Mittlestadt. I am a resident of Mandan, ND.  
I am submitting written testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468.

It has already been proven that vaccines come with risks. Risks of permanent damage to an individual's health and can also cause death. Therefore, I believe that a person should be able to make an informed decision and that that decision should be given due respect.

Due to the risks involved, I believe that anyone with the authority to administer a vaccine should be required to provide ALL of the information to the recipient/parent/guardian before administering the vaccine and that the possibility of exemption be made known and available. In order to enforce, there needs to be penalty.

Typically a doctor or nurse will tell you the vaccine is safe and effective and that there will only be mild symptoms, such as redness or soreness at the injection site and possibly a slight fever or tiredness, and that these symptoms are "normal". The worst scenario, which many parents have been subjected to, are children's wellness visits where you are not given any information and the nurse simply walks in to the exam room with the shots ready to give the infant or child and at that time if the parent/guardian asks for information or declines the vaccine they are met with both hostile and belittling verbal responses. Then they are typically given a form to sign, which makes them feel like "the worst human being" (this is the words of my own daughter after one of these visits) and there is no mention of exemption forms. Some parents at this point are told that they are no longer welcome to bring their children to that doctor's office. This just leaves people in difficult circumstances.

There are proven risks with vaccines and where there are risks, information and choices need to be available.