



House Human Services Committee
HB 1468
January 25, 2021

Chair Weisz and Committee Members, I am 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. I am also an Internal Medicine physician at Sanford Health in Valley City.

NDMA stands in opposition to HB 1468 and I am here today to outline our reasons for opposing this bill.

I provide care to adults who still need and want various vaccinations depending on their age, underlying health conditions, planned travel, and desire to prevent disease. Vaccines are routinely given in my clinic, at local pharmacies, and at county health offices without a physician even present. At some visit's adults may receive 2-3 vaccinations and we already have a process for providing up to date vaccine information to patients.

Informed consent is very important for vaccines. Health care providers already provide extensive information for informed consent through Vaccine Information Statements (VIS). I also provide patients with information about the benefits and risks of vaccinations; therefore, providing additional and redundant information takes time away from the patient's other health concerns.

Actions proposed in HB 1468 have the potential to mitigate statewide vaccine progress by placing undue burden on health care professionals while instilling unfounded fear of the vaccine process. Regarding the package insert requirement, it is important to know that this information is not regularly updated, which can be problematic as new and evolving information may not be added, in addition to package inserts being very lengthy and confusing to the patient.

Federal law already mandates that providers give patients a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) before vaccination and is handed out for each vaccine received. The VISs distributed to patients are straight forward and easy to understand.

HB 1468 places the onus to educate solely on health care providers through enforcement of a mandate that highly penalizes health care providers.

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