

Kyle Small

Re: Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

House Bill No. 1469

The proposal is to require “A child's parent or guardian seeking a religious, philosophical, or moral exemption” to “view the state department of health's vaccination education module online.”

It is proposed that this vaccination education module will “provide scientific, evidence-based information about childhood vaccinations...”

Note: the exemptions listed are *religious, philosophical, and moral*. The reason that these exemptions have existed in current policy is due to the inappropriate and illegitimate nature of any law that would attempt to compel behavior from any constituent that would conflict with his/her own convictions on the matter. The nature of these convictions is clearly not based upon “scientific, evidence-based information.” It should be clear that these convictions have nothing to do at all with science, the safety, or even the efficacy of vaccination. These convictions would be based upon an individual’s understanding of how vaccination would relate to his/her own already-established moral, religious, or philosophical worldview.

The implication behind this proposal is offensive to individuals who hold to such convictions. Without stating so explicitly, the clear message behind this proposal is that *given the right amount of scientific information, religious, moral, or philosophical convictions can be altered. It is to say that such convictions are only held by the scientifically ignorant or uninformed.* That is, an individual with the right scientific information in-hand would certainly not take a religious exemption, while in truth the two categories are mutually exclusive.

This proposal would seek to use the power of the state to manipulate the moral, philosophical, and religious convictions of its constituents. This is an over-reach of power, and I implore the legislative body, as representatives of the rights of the people, to vote “no.”

Thank you,

Kyle Small