

Chairman and members of the House, Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, (I apologize for my mistaken listing of the Human Services committee in my other submitted testimony, I didn't realize my mistake until after I had submitted!)

I am Melyssa Howry, of District 4, and I am in FULL support of HB1301. What I will say is first and foremost, THANK YOU to the wonderful representatives and senators who put their names on this bill. I am full of gratitude to have legislators who are seeking to protect our health and safety in the state of North Dakota. I came here nearly 3 years ago from New Hampshire, a state that prides itself in the motto, "Live Free or Die". I will say that while I love my home state, it has gradually moved further and further away from that ideal over the years. Coming here was a breath of fresh air. I quickly found that NH's motto was a much more fitting description of North Dakotans. The idea of individual liberty is alive and well in this state, and passing this bill would help to keep it that way.

What we have seen over the past year all over the country---and frankly, the world---is an egregious violation of our rights. Over and over, we had orders and restrictions placed on us that were cumbersome and ineffective. Mandatory vaccinations would be yet another one of those rules intended to control and manipulate us. Meeting a vaccination requirement in order to be hired or keep a job is yet another violation of human rights, the rights given to us by God and by the US Constitution. I know this already happens in many health care settings with the flu vaccine, and I can understand why that is the case. But for any other place of employment, it makes no logical sense to force someone to put something into their body against their will. Something that could potentially harm them. I have already read of lawsuits happening in other parts of the country where workplaces and/or schools are requiring the Covid-19 vaccine. Those places have all withdrawn the requirement in the face of said lawsuits. I think that speaks volumes as to the legality of such mandates. Passing this bill would set a precedent in North Dakota that it is not acceptable to even attempt to coerce employees to do something that is against their wills, regardless of the reason.

I appreciate the time and attention you have taken on these very important matters. Please vote "Do Pass" on HB1301 and send the message that private medical decisions will never be a condition of employment in our state. Thank you for listening!