



**House Transportation Committee
HB 1102 - January 8, 2021**

CHAIRMAN RUBY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Courtney Koebele. I am submitting testimony on behalf of the North Dakota Medical Association (NDMA). NDMA is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA has concerns about raising the age for online renewal from 65 to 70 and does not support the changes in HB 1102. Eye disease is of course age-related, and it speeds up with every passing year. NDMA joins with the NDOA in believing that a driver's license renewal applicant age 65-69 should be required to provide vision screening information, or eye examination signed by a licensed eye care provider, on a form provided by the department for online renewal.

Patients in their 60s-70s very commonly experience worsening vision due to cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and other reasons. This worsening vision can happen relatively rapidly and creates significant driving impairment.

In the opinion of NDMA ophthalmologists, it really is the vision screening for driver's license renewal that enforces the vision requirement and prompts action on the part of the impaired elderly drivers.

Thank you for allowing NDMA to testify on this bill. We would be more than happy to visit with the committee at more length if you have any questions.

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