



**Senate Human Services Committee  
SB 2284  
February 9, 2021**

Chair Lee and Committee Members, I am Courtney Koebele, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

**NDMA opposes SB 2284.**

For pediatric medical marijuana use, NDMA believes in using the usual Food and Drug Administration (FDA) processes instead of "medical marijuana" laws. The FDA has a long track record of being sure that medicines are safe and effective and are dispensed and sold safely. This is particularly important in medication for children.

Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), signifying the drug has a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use, and there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or substance under medical supervision. Cannabinoids, which are components of marijuana, have been proven to be effective in treating of specific conditions in adults including nausea, vomiting, and chronic pain conditions.

Youth are different from adults—and may react differently to marijuana. Though anecdotal accounts have shown that certain cannabinoids could benefit children with certain chronic debilitating diseases, there are no published studies on the effects on cannabinoids on the pediatric population.

NDMA urges a DO NOT PASS on SB 2284.

Thank you.

Courtney Koebele  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Medical Association