

Good afternoon, Representative Weisz and Members of the Joint Technical Corrections Committee.

My name is Brenda Stallman, and I am the Administrator of Traill District Health Unit. Our local health department serves the communities of Mayville, Portland, Hillsboro, Hatton, Reynolds and Buxton.

I am providing testimony in opposition of HB 1510 and 1511. I am not in favor of diminishing requirements for immunizations that have been an important tool and effective with eliminating highly contagious and life-threatening diseases for decades.

A blanket exclusion, during and in response to a deadly pandemic is not in the best interest of public health, the lives of our citizens, and the ability of our businesses to protect their employees and patrons.

Our vibrant agricultural community in ND largely depends on science to assure a safe and nutrient-rich food supply. We trust our engineers to build roads and bridges based on education and methods proven as safe. Scientists, doctors, and medical experts have devoted lifetimes doing research and conducting studies to prove vaccines are safe and effective at controlling diseases. I am asking you to honor science and allow the best methods we have available to keep our citizens healthy and our businesses going.

Legislative approval is already required before the state can require additional vaccines for employees. These bills infringe on local control and the ability to make decisions that are appropriate for local jurisdictions. Public health is placed in the position of protecting the health and safety of our citizens. These bills impede our already very difficult assignment given the conditions we are facing.

Finally, as a mother of 2 adult children ready to start their own families, I implore you to consider the future of our children and grandchildren. Please afford them the same quality of life and safety measures we have in place that we have benefited from. Thank you for your consideration for opposing House Bills 1510 and 1511.