

Chairpeople and Members of the Committee Good Morning and thank you for reading my testimony.

Hi, my name is Tiffanie Fettig, and this is my covid story.

I am 47 years old and relatively healthy. I began feeling like I was getting a cold in early October. These symptoms held on for about a week and then I began experiencing body aches and fever. After several days of rest at home, I was feeling dehydrated and I felt my condition was worsening. Since I suspected I may have been exposed to covid and I had heard that early treatment was essential, I made a trip to my local ER for care.

When I arrived for medical care, my vitals were taken and I was screened for covid. I was put into a room for isolation and given fluids while they waited for my test results. The doctor came into the room to discuss my test results. Her first question was whether I had been vaccinated for Covid-19. I shared with her that I had not. She then told me that my test was positive and asked me "Who do you think you are not getting vaccinated, Superwoman? Did you think you were immune to covid?" I do not recall answering her questions, but I do remember feeling ridiculed and judged. This doctor did not know my medical history, she did not know me, and she was making a judgment that I should have gotten the shot without understanding my individual situation.

I asked about her recommended treatment and her response was that I would possibly qualify for the antibodies treatment. I asked her to provide information on the antibodies treatment including the leaflet with the warnings regarding the medication so that I could make a decision with informed consent. She returned with a list of qualifications required in order to receive the antibodies treatment. I again asked for additional information regarding the risks of the medication and she said "It was like any others, there was a long list that no one ever reads." She did tell me that if I chose to take the treatment that they would have to "watch me very closely during the treatment and for an hour after the treatment."

I asked the doctor if she would prescribe Ivermectin. Her response "That is an animal medicine, I have not prescribed that and I am prescribing it to you." I was not asking for the animal version of ivermectin, I was asking for the version which was originally developed for humans and had been previously proven to help covid positive individuals recover and stay out of the hospital. I was asking for the dosage for my weight and my condition. I had done a fair amount of research on Ivermectin and knew that it had helped to irradiate covid in some countries.

My attending nurse shared with me that she had seen 6 covid positive patients on her shift that day, 3 fully vaccinated and 3 categorized as unvaccinated.

I left the hospital that night ill, uneducated on the antibodies treatment, and without the prescription or reasonable explanation as to why the ivermectin could not or would not be prescribed.

I contacted my primary care physician the next morning, she shared with me that it is very difficult to get Ivermectin filled at the local pharmacies. Why are medications that are working being restricted in this way?

The end of my story is I did obtain and fill a prescription for Ivermectin. I was unable to get it filled at a pharmacy in my community even though we probably have 20 to choose from and I had to wait for it to be mailed to me.

I did recover quickly after receiving the medication, and I do feel that I was denied information and care as I have not taken the covid 19 shot.

Representatives and Senators, please vote yes on HB1514 and protect the citizens of ND. If early treatment is the best medicine, we need to stop making sick patients jump through hoops to get what helps.

Tiffanie Fetting  
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