

To the House Human Service Committee

and

the good people of North Dakota,

I am submitting my testimony in support for HB 1200. This bill addressing COVID-19 vaccinations and experimental vaccines for students in primary through college education is important to me and my children. My family and I left Washington state in the summer of 2020 to find sanctuary in North Dakota for our children's sake. I believe that HB 1200 is a bill that will defend their right to an education while providing them the ability to exercise their health freedom.

In 2020 Covid unleashed a cruel government in Washington state. Schools were shut down; churches were locked up; sports were forbidden; children were isolated from each other and grandparents; and mental health services were reduced to telehealth access for *months*. My children were falling apart emotionally and falling behind educationally.

Working by remote and with the school ending for the year, we were able to break away to North Dakota for the summer. While we came out to see family, we found so much more! In Dickenson, we encountered other children playing for the first time in months. The city parks and recreation had a summer drop off program for kids to get them outside and playing again! The attendants were gracious in allowing my children to play with their sandbox toys and to join in on the yard games. I watched my sons run and smile and make friends! I reassured my then 3-year-old daughter that it was okay to share sand toys with and to play near the other children in the sand box. She glowed with delight, relishing in the shared moment with little girls her own age. I saw my children blossom!

We spent that whole summer in the Dakotas. Dickenson, Hazen, New Salem, Bismarck, Strasburg, Fargo, and Grafton—we drove all over visiting family and exploring unique places. I saw my boys grow inches before my eyes! My daughter grew in self-confidence. We didn't want to go back. So, we didn't. We sold our houses in Washington and moved to Bismarck.

We feel blessed to call North Dakota our home. We appreciate the immunization exemptions that North Dakota recognizes, which allows for our children to attend schools and programs while we discern vaccinations for their health benefits alone. We hope for the opportunity to attend NDSU for our children like their dad enjoyed. We hope that experimental vaccinations, like the Covid-19 vaccines, will not be required by then for our children to leave home and pursue their calling on a state university campus. In this post-Covid world, my children will need yet again a sanctuary. We hope that North Dakota will provide that sanctuary for them, and for generations to come.

As a mother of three determined young men and one compassionate young lady I support HB 1200. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lyndsey A. Jensen