Statement of Kim Witczak
On behalf of
Woodymatters
Before the
North Dakota House Human Services Public Hearing
On HB 1406
January 23, 2023

My name is Kim Witczak and I am speaking on behalf of Woodymatters, a drug safety organization started after the death of my husband due to an undisclosed side effect of antidepressants. We represent the voice of families, including the Covid vaccine injured, who live every day with the consequences of our current drug safety system. I am also on the board of directors for USA Patient Network, an independent patient voice advocating for safe, effective, and accessible medical treatments. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 1406.

In my nineteen years of drug safety experience since my husband's death which pharma considered acceptable collateral damage (or the cost of doing business), I have had to intimately learn how to connect the dots between pharma and the regulatory, legal, and legislative system. I also have the unique perspective of being a voting member on one of the FDA Advisory Committees reviewing new drugs coming to market. In addition, I have spent my entire professional career in advertising and marketing. We are in the business to change consumer behavior. I understand the marketing and messaging machine.

From the beginning of the one-size-fits all mass vaccination campaign, the fear of the virus and moral obligation was stamped into the human psyche. Trumpeted as “safe and effective”, the mass vaccination program was positioned as only way out of the pandemic. The public was told the Covid vaccines were completely “safe and effective” by everyone from POTUS, celebrities, the media, sports figures, local and state government officials, health departments, church leaders and doctors. You couldn’t question the science, the safety, or public narrative without backlash.

A huge red flag was learning that the government granted the vaccine manufacturers complete immunity from any legal liability for potential and future harms and deaths caused by their product. This was shocking to me especially since I was able to hold Pfizer accountable after my husband’s death by Zoloft-induced suicide. I had a failure to warn/wrongful death lawsuit against the company. Through litigation I was able to get out internal Pfizer and FDA documents that showed they knew about suicide risk since early 1990s. These documents were used in my lobbying efforts. The FDA eventually added Blackbox suicide warnings on antidepressants in 2004 -- One year after my husband’s death and thirteen years after the FDA first held advisory committee meetings in 1991 on link between violence and suicide.

I wonder how many people were told before taking the jab that they had no legal recourse should something happen to them? This most definitely should have been part of any informed consent.

Another red flag was the rushed and shortened clinical trials, coming to market within months, missing trial elements like biodistribution study and key groups like pregnant women not studied. The trials were then ultimately unblinded and the placebo group was offered the COVID vaccine for "ethical" reasons during a pandemic. To this day, there are still ongoing clinical trials, and without a control group, we lost the opportunity to learn about how long efficacy against virus lasts and crucial long term safety impacts. This is clinical trials 101.

In addition, the integrity of original clinical trial data has been questioned and is now the focus of a groundbreaking whistleblower lawsuit filed against Pfizer brought by clinical investigator, Brook Jackson, responsible for overseeing Pfizer's clinical trials.

Thankfully through FOIA litigation, the public is learning more about the original Pfizer clinical trial data submitted to the FDA for authorization. The FDA originally wanted 75 years to release this data, but the judge ruled it needed to be released immediately.

We have also learned that the CDC and FDA have long known about the side effects and injuries reported early in vaccine program but hid from the public. Instead, they keep pushing the product, boosters and for use in children. According to OpenVaers – the website tracking the reports of injures based on the FDA VAERS reporting system – there have been over 1.5M adverse events reported as of January 13, 2023.

But probably the most disconcerting for me is the gaslighting of those who have suffered injuries or deaths after the vaccines. They did their part as government requested, and now, they are left on the battlefield alone. There has been no interest from federal or state government officials or the medical establishment to consider injuries from the vaccines. No acknowledgment or help. Instead, harms are vilified by the media, censored by social media, and called “false and misleading. The injured have been discredited, silenced, and even called anti-vaxxers. The vaccine injured are left to fend for themselves, often left with huge medical bills and unable to work. They have started their own support groups and organizations like React 19 which is helping raise money for the vaccine injured medical treatments as well as a research fund to study their injuries.

One would think the government or medical community would have same interest in vaccine injuries as they do long covid.

Finally, I want to briefly touch on mandates. Thankfully, vaccine mandates are getting struck down by courts across the country with the Department of Defense most recently rescinding the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for the service members. However, healthcare workers and students are still being mandated. It makes no sense.

Where there is risk, there also must be choice. There's a dark irony in the era of patient-centered care and shared decision making in healthcare, neither is present in the conversation around mandates. People should not be coerced or forced to choose between their freedom to bodily autonomy or their livelihood or education. Public health may be a population-based approach, but we need to remember we are treating individuals and a "one size fits all" approach does not work. The public deserves true informed consent.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for HB 1406. It is an important starting point in helping support the vaccine injured. They have paid the ultimate price, and this would be an first step to understanding their injuries, how we can learn from them, and ultimately help them heal. But first we need to recognize and acknowledge vaccine injuries are real, not rare.