

House Human Services Committee  
HB1505  
February 7, 2023

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Parveen Wahab and I am a pediatric hospitalist physician at CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck. I am submitting this testimony to express my opposition to HB1505.

As a healthcare provider, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill could have on public health. It would criminalize a core function of public health by making the requirement of any vaccination a Class C felony with severe penalties. This would remove all immunization requirements for employers, healthcare facilities, schools, universities, and many other settings where diseases can spread.

While I understand that parents should have the right to make decisions about what is best for their children, including the decision to vaccinate, I strongly believe that this legislation goes too far by putting healthcare providers in the position of violating the law if they try to protect their patients, employees, and the public from disease outbreaks.

Furthermore, this bill puts healthcare facilities that accept Medicare and Medicaid at odds with federal requirements for healthcare worker vaccinations. They would be in violation of those federal requirements and risk losing vital funding if they comply with the bills mandates.

In conclusion, I believe that this legislation would make North Dakota more vulnerable to preventable diseases and punish those who are working to keep us safe. For these reasons, I respectfully request a DO NOT PASS recommendation on the bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.