

Hello, Chairman Weisz & Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Brenda Stallman. I am the Executive Director of Traill District Health Unit in Hillsboro. I am in opposition to SB 2274.

Governor Burgum's Main Street Initiative promotes vibrant community centers as fundamental elements of workforce development. It provides tools and resources to capitalize on each community's strengths and allows for sound planning decisions that attract and retain a skilled workforce.

Preventing an employer from accessing knowledge of immunization status of his/her workers poses a significant threat to the safety of the workforce and a danger to the health of the community. Many employers in our little towns as well as larger cities are walking a fine line between thriving and closing due to worker shortages and narrow profit margins.

Whenever possible, it is our duty to protect our citizens and workers from the threat of becoming seriously ill due to exposure to someone who lacks a vaccination. This is a risk that is careless, unnecessary, and dangerous.

By denying employers the ability to determine the vaccination status of their employees when appropriate for their individual business, it sets the stage for a life-threatening disease to quickly sweep through a community like yours and mine with no ability to determine who is protected and who is not. And of course, these circulating diseases are not confined within the walls of one community.

Imagine the liability of an employer who does not provide or require the necessary vaccines vital to keep his/her staff safe. In our litigation possessed society, we as employees would be first line targets of a lawsuit in the case of a work-related illness that was preventable with a vaccine not required based on best practices.

Hard working, well-trained, and good intentioned citizens look to all of us to do what we can to keep our towns vitalized and safe.

Thank you for considering my testimony in opposition to SB 2274.