

Dear Chair Lee and the members of the Senate Human Service Committee, I'm writing to express concern with HB 1111 and I ask for your consideration when reviewing it.

The entire bill is a single line intended to be added to our century code that read as follows:

“A health-related regulation of an international health organization, either directly through the organization or indirectly through law or regulation is not enforceable on this state.”

What causes me concern is this line in particular:

“Either directly through the organization or indirectly through law or regulation”

The intention of this bill as explained by the sponsor and Daniel Stinislowski during house testimony relates to a desire to prohibit the World Health Organization (WHO) from dedicating law that governs North Dakota. While I am not an expert at very high level health regulation, I'm confused as to when we were being forced to follow WHO health guidelines absent of the approval of federal or state regulation or governor directive.

While the target of this legislation is clearly stated to be WHO, there are internal health organizations around every conceivable aspect of health. We often come together as nations and people to share perspectives and develop the best global health considerations.

The question I'd like to ask the committee is how we untangle the source of a regulation? If we as north dakota pass a law that happens to be the exact recommended health policy of WHO, would that law not be unenforceable as it's "indirectly" related? Even if we as North Dakota choose and want such a law, even if we were to pass such a law. Could we not suggest any law that mirrors international health organization policy is no longer enforceable?

While I don't currently have answers to these questions, I feel if that is the case, I would urge a "Do Not Pass" on this bill. Or, I would recommend amendments to take out the line "indirectly through law or regulation".

If passed as stands, I feel one could also say that food safety laws and health regulations are not enforceable due to an argument they are indirect enforcements of international guidelines.

Thank you for your considerations, time, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler