

HB 1511
House Human Services Committee
February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Dr Ana Tobiasz. I am an obstetrician/gynecologist and maternal fetal medicine physician practicing in the state since 2017. My specialty is in caring for high risk pregnancies. I urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1511.

This bill is directing the board of medicine to create an educational course based on ND century code relating to abortion laws in North Dakota. The bill states that these chapters relate to the practice of medicine.

I have several concerns with the intent of this bill. First and foremost, the language in the ND Century Code that threatens doctors with criminal charges does not use appropriate medical terminology. In fact, the chapters of ND Century Code in this bill stand in direct contradiction to the standard of care for obstetricians trained in the United States of America about how to practice safe obstetric medicine.

Additionally, some of the ND century code chapters implicated in this bill are not even in effect as they have been deemed unconstitutional in North Dakota District Court and a final ruling on an appeal to the ND Supreme Court is pending.

If ND century code relating to abortion regulations and exceptions is so clear, why does the state feel the need to create an educational video for board eligible/board certified obstetricians/gynecologists who intend to practice their specialty in the state? I can think of no other such requirements to obtain medical licensure in the state beyond maintaining ongoing continuing medical education credits (also known as CME) and meeting the licensure requirements as set out by the specialty. The only requirement I can recall is related to DEA prescribing requirements for opioids. This was a one-time training that was implemented nationwide to improve access to opioid maintenance treatment for individuals suffering from opioid abuse and to review updated prescribing practices. The opioid education was based on science and appropriate prescribing of medications.

At this point, this bill requires doctors to be trained on sections of state law that have been deemed by the Courts to violate the North Dakota Constitution, and are not currently in effect.

I strongly urge a DO NOT PASS on 1511.

Dr Ana Tobiasz, MD
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