

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

I would like to submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1468. This bill is so important, and I believe it should be something we all want in regards to the health and safety of North Dakotans.

There has been much debate recently on the safety and efficacy of vaccinations in general, but also specifically related to the Covid-19 vaccine, which is still in experimental stages. I don't pretend to think I can convince you all one way or another, as we all have different life experiences, moral and religious convictions, and definitions of health and wellness. What I would like to do is provide a couple of examples as to why I believe this bill is absolutely necessary.

- 1) This is a handout specifically designed for children by the North Dakota Department of Health:
<https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/Immunizations/Providers/BeWiseImmunize.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0S4tWpwxvtKGSvJesf-eyyQXYN5-KBQQSrMLI02MlumJE2bTrTvqRhJQ> I will not address it in its entirety, but I will pick just one example to illustrate my position.

Page 1 of this activity book reads, "Did you know? Tetanus is called 'lockjaw' because it causes stiffness of the jaw and neck." This is of course, true. However, nowhere in this activity book or in any other parent handout I saw on the NDDoH website, was there information about the DTaP vaccine and its associated risks, possible adverse reactions, contraindications, or even a link where a parent can find the package insert online. Here is the package insert for Infanrix (DTaP) directly from the FDA website:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/75157/download> . While lockjaw does sound scary, parents don't receive any further information about tetanus, the likelihood of catching tetanus, the percentage of severe symptoms, or the possibility of treatment and recovery. We are just provided with one scary statement about the disease. All while avoiding giving us the full information on risks of the vaccine, which deserve careful consideration. Parents should be given the opportunity to make a fully informed decision about the health of their child. This is just one reason why I support HB1468. (A great example of a book that gives FULL information on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases is called "The Vaccine Book" by a pro-informed consent, pro-vaccine doctor, Dr. Bob Sears. It provides risks and benefits of all vaccines and describes the ingredients in each one:
<https://www.thevaccinebook.com/>)

- 2) This leads to my next point. If we are supposed to trust the medical professionals, they need to be completely transparent with us. I often hear the words "misinformation" and "disinformation" tossed around by NDDoH, the CDC,

and other public health authorities. I looked up the definitions of these words and would like to share them with you:

Misinformation: false or inaccurate information that is communicated regardless of an intention to deceive.

Disinformation: false information which is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media.

I would just like to point out that from what I have seen on the NDDoH website, particularly in regards to parent/child handouts, including several links dedicated to training providers on how to convince parents to agree to vaccines, I saw a lot that fits into those two definitions. What this bill is asking for, is the polar opposite. It is looking for people to have TRUE information, regarding both the potential risks and benefits of vaccines, as well as the true risks associated with the illnesses the vaccines are supposed to prevent. It seems to me that anyone in the healthcare field would be violating their oath to “do no harm” if they were not amenable to this bill. HB1468 will eliminate the possibility of any misinformation or disinformation passing between a provider and a patient. It encourages and promotes full transparency and builds a relationship based on trust and mutual respect. I think that is something we can all agree is extremely important for the health and well being of all ND citizens.

- 3) I just want to share from personal experience before I close. Several years ago, I was about to travel out of the country and determined that I needed a tetanus booster. At the time, I had no awareness on vaccine safety and efficacy and had not yet begun to research the subject. And yet, I was still shocked and confused when the doctor came into the room with the needle already out, and stuck it into my arm without even so much as saying “Hello.” I had never met this doctor before, and had not established any level of trust. The nurse told him why I was there, so he took it upon himself to absurdly “surprise” me (as he put it, which he felt would be better than discussing it first). He never gave me any information about the vaccine, and I was too startled to ask. I dismissed it as just a strange experience, but 3 years later when I was pregnant with my first child, my OB asked me if I had recently had the TDaP. I told her that I hadn’t, and she then informed me that if I had recently had a tetanus booster, it is likely that it was the TDaP. That was the first I had ever heard that information! Why would they give me a shot of 3 things when I only needed one? And why did they never tell me about the risks of doing so? My OB then persisted to try to convince me to receive another TDaP. She talked about how scary pertussis can be for babies and sought to guilt me into getting the vaccine. She never informed me that the

TDaP (Adacel) has not been tested on pregnant women and they don't know what effects it could have on an unborn baby or the mother's reproductive health (<https://www.fda.gov/files/vaccines%2C%20blood%20%26%20biologics/published/Package-Insert--Adacel.pdf> (pg 15)). She also tried to get me to receive a flu shot, which also has never been tested on pregnant women (<https://www.fda.gov/media/119856/download> pg 19). I learned all these things by doing my own research, and realized for the first time that if I wanted to know the full truth about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases, I would have to learn on my own. My doctors cannot be trusted to tell me.

In conclusion, this bill, HB1468, seeks to change all of that. To strengthen the doctor/patient relationship by ensuring that good, accurate, complete information is provided to any person receiving a vaccine. Because of my life experiences, I was set on a course about 10 years ago to look into vaccine-preventable disease and vaccines, both risks and benefits. I know where to find the whole story. Most people, like myself when I received that tetanus vaccine, don't know any different than what the doctor tells them. They don't know where to look for the full truth. They are told to trust the professionals, and just do what they say. I believe people deserve to be treated better. They should be given all the information and trusted to make an informed decision that best suits their health needs for themselves or their children. I believe that exemptions should be clearly explained and made accessible, instead of the materials I viewed on the NDDoH website (including that activity book I linked earlier), that simply state children must have their immunizations in order to attend school. This is a half truth. Isn't that the kind of "disinformation" that public health authorities so often speak against? Why manipulate the public? Please, allow them to learn "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Anything less is detrimental to the well being of North Dakotans. Again, I wholeheartedly support HB1468, and ask that you vote for a "Do Pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your time in reading this! I would love to discuss this further with any of you who are willing and interested in doing so!

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