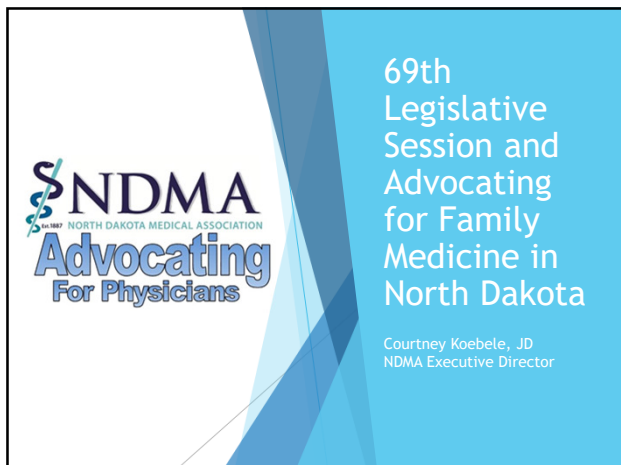
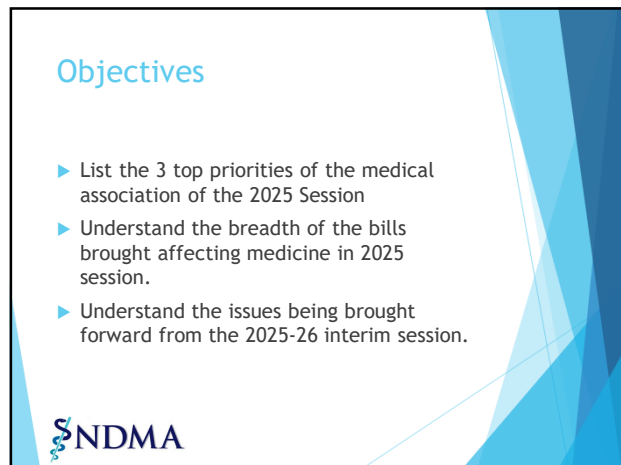




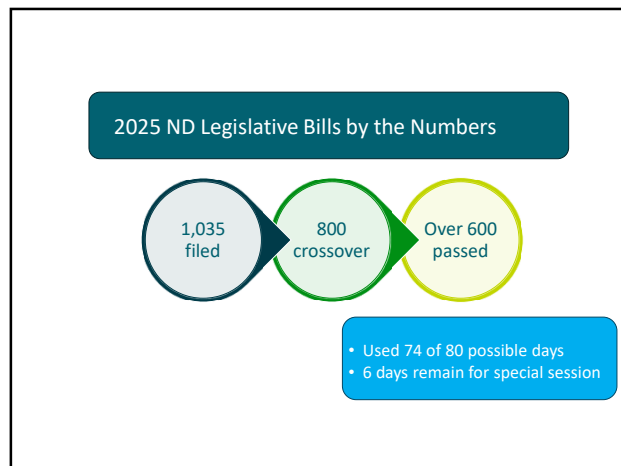
1



2



3



4

Prior Authorization	Reporting of maternal drug use	Radon
- ND legislative Interim Committee Study - Coalition building PASSED	- Create a waiver from reporting if actively treating PASSED	- ND very high - Statute requires radon disclosure - Minimal public awareness, even among physicians PASSED

2025 NDMA Legislative Priorities

5



6

Prior Authorization Reform Law: What It Means for North Dakota

- ▶ Uniform definition of Medically Necessary
- ▶ Prior authorization requirements readily accessible including written clinical criteria
- ▶ Adverse determinations must be made by a physician; all appeals must be reviewed by physician
- ▶ 72 hours for urgent / 7 calendar days for non urgent
- ▶ No prior authorization on medication assisted treatment (MAT)



7

Prior Authorization, cont.

- ▶ No revocation of previous prior authorization if care is provided within 45 days
- ▶ Prior authorization for chronic conditions must be in effect for 12 months
- ▶ Auto authorization if the insurer does not meet timelines
- ▶ Annual report to Insurance Commissioner:
 - ▶ Total number of prior authorizations
 - ▶ Results of the prior authorizations
 - ▶ Reasons for adverse determination



8

Maternal Drug Use Reporting

- ▶ Ob/gyn physicians indicate that women are not getting the pregnancy care they need for fear of being reported
- ▶ ND law currently has a waiver for women in treatment
- ▶ Treatment is not always necessary and/or practical

9

New waiver

- ▶ A health care professional or a social service professional is exempt from the mandated reporting requirement if the professional is providing or collaborating with other professionals to provide the female patient with prenatal or substance abuse services, including voluntary entrance into a licensed treatment program.
- ▶ If the female patient discontinues regular prenatal care, fails to follow treatment recommendations, or continues to engage in the abuse of a controlled substance or alcohol misuse, the waiver no longer applies, and the professional is required to report the patient.

10

Radon - Current ND law

- ▶ Sellers must disclose if they've tested for radon.
- ▶ No requirements for testing.
- ▶ Public knowledge about the hazards of radon, even among physicians, remains notably lacking.

<https://www.jabfm.org/content/34/3/602>



11

New Radon Law

- ▶ Seller disclosure form must include the following educational statement (including "for sale by owner")

RADON GAS IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING RADIOACTIVE GAS THAT, WHEN IT HAS ACCUMULATED IN A BUILDING IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES, MAY PRESENT HEALTH RISKS TO PERSONS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO IT OVER TIME. LEVELS OF RADON THAT EXCEED FEDERAL GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN BUILDINGS ON RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY IN NORTH DAKOTA. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RADON AND RADON TESTING MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.



12

Medicaid Expansion	Medicaid	UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences
• Maintain rates	• Obtain inflationary update	• Support the submitted budget

2025 NDMA Legislative Priorities

13

Medicaid

- 2/2 inflators
- No change in expansion rates
- Significant funding for Altru behavioral health beds

14

UND SMHS

- \$5 Million and permission to fundraise for Allied Health Addition
- Challenge Grants
- Healthcare Workforce Initiative fully funded
- 2 Mill Levy bills defeated

15

Hospital Worker Assault

- Persistence pays off: This year's bill was the fifth attempt to pass this legislation
- Bodily fluid assault penalty raised in 2019
- Current law protects a peace officer or correctional institution employee, an employee of the state hospital, a person engaged in a judicial proceeding, a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or emergency medical services personnel unit, or an emergency department worker in the performance of the member's duties.
- Success: 2025 bill adds hospital workers engaged in essential patient care to the protected category

NDMA

16

Non-economic Damages

- North Dakota has a \$500,000 non-economic damages cap in malpractice cases
- Trial Lawyers brought a bill to change to \$3 million
- Amended to \$1 million
- Received a DO PASS out of the House Judiciary Committee
- NDMA partnered with NDHA and NDLC to defeat the bill 61-30



17

Scope Bills

- Optometrists - injections (amended out)
- Physical therapists ordering imaging: MRIs (results to primary physician required)
- Naturopath - expansion of how they prescribe (DEFEATED)



18

Why Is Scope So Difficult?



Legislators do not like to be in the middle of disputes



There is a strong desire to help rural health care with lower-level providers



The groups wanting to expand scope are highly motivated and can come back year after year

19

Culture War Issues

Vaccines

Transgender

Abortion

Parental Rights



20

Vaccines

- ▶ HB 1391: this bill would have created a new status related to human rights and anti-discrimination policies and included a definition for health status. **DEFEATED/SENATE**
- ▶ HB 1454: notwithstanding any other provision of law, a government entity may not require an individual to take, receive a vaccine or similar product unless there is an opt-out for health, religious or philosophical reasons. This law applies to state agency, political subdivision or any other government entity. **PASSED**
- ▶ HB 1457: this bill related to an exemption to required vaccines. The department shall publicize an exemption exists for required vaccines that do not meet the minimal standards under this section. The department posts on its website the injuries or disease caused by the vaccine and the rate at which the injury or disease occurs due to the vaccine. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**



21

More Vaccine

- ▶ HB 1458: relating to releasing a self-spreading virus; and to provide a penalty. A person may not develop, release, or take part in causing the release of any self-spreading virus or bacteria without the express written consent of each individual that may potentially be exposed to the self-spreading virus or bacteria. **DEFEATED/SENATE**
- ▶ HB 1467: relating to recording and reporting vaccine adverse event data; to amend and reenact section 23-12-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the publication of vaccine adverse event data and information; to provide for a legislative management report. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**
- ▶ HB 1519: create and enact a new section to chapter 23-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to death and vaccination records. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**



22

Abortion Bills

- ▶ HB 1373: related to the definition of human being and person as the terms relate to the offenses of murder and assault, and civil actions for death caused by wrongful acts. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**
- ▶ HB 1488: related to the creation of an abortion approval committee, a framework for abortion, and an emergency medical exception. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**
- ▶ HB 1511: relates to the development of an instructional course on ND abortion law. Amended in the Senate to take away the mandate. **PASSED**



23

Parental Consent bills

- ▶ HB 1450: related to parent and guardian access to the medical examination room of a minor. **DEFEATED/SENATE**
- ▶ SB 2244: related to parental involvement in a child's education; Includes parental consent to a physical or mental health care decision for the child; access and review any health or medical record relating to the child; consent in writing before a biometric scan of the child is made, shared, or stored; consent in writing before a record of the child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid is created, stored, or shared. **DEFEATED/HOUSE**



24

Other bills - PASSED

- ▶ HB 1035: Social Work Licensure Compact
- ▶ HB 1114: Insulin drugs and supplies - require insurance coverage and limit out-of-pocket expenses
- ▶ HB 1216: Co-Pay Accumulator
- ▶ HB 1217: Decriminalize HIV
- ▶ HB 1442: State taskforce on Government Efficiency
- ▶ HB 1543: Shall consider studying prescription drug pricing



25

More passed bills

- ▶ SB 2079: Added certified peer support specialists as Tier 4 mental health professionals
- ▶ SB 2146: Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
- ▶ SB 2147: Loan Repayment - eliminate self or relatives from providing matching funds
- ▶ SB 2297: Consent of incapacitated individuals



26

SB 2297: Informed consent for incapacitated patients

- ▶ Adds an "interdisciplinary medical team" as a new, additional category of individuals who can provide informed consent for incapacitated patients. This amendment was added to the existing law to address situations where other authorized individuals (like a healthcare agent or family members) are unavailable or unable to consent, creating a crucial decision-making layer for these complex cases. The bill also clarifies existing law and makes the statute more understandable for healthcare professionals and the public. An interdisciplinary team consisting of at least three health care professionals.
 - ▶ An interdisciplinary team may include an employee or agent of a health care provider treating an incapacitated patient, including a member of the ethics committee, provided a member of the team is not directly involved with the treatment of the incapacitated patient.
 - ▶ If consent is provided under this subdivision, a health care provider shall continue good faith efforts to identify and locate an individual in a preceding level of priority.



27

Other notable issues

- ▶ Two-year budget for general fund spending for 2025-27 is \$6.25 billion, an increase of 2.6% over 2023-25.
- ▶ Property Tax Relief - \$1,600 primary residence tax credit and provisions to limit future property tax increases
- ▶ School choice bills largely defeated/vetoed
- ▶ Campaign disclosure reform defeated
- ▶ \$300 million to construct a new State Hospital in Jamestown – 140 beds



28

Physician Day at the Capitol



29

Health screenings at the Capitol

The event, courtesy of McKenzie Healthcare Systems and the North Dakota Medical Association's Doctor of the Day program, provided diagnostic screening throughout the day for legislators and anyone else who stopped by.



30

Interim Studies approved

- ▶ **Prescription Drug Transparency Reporting** - Study establishing reporting requirements for covered entities in North Dakota which participate in the federal Drug Discount Program under 42 U.S.C. 256b, and how reported data could be used to develop public policy that directly benefits patients in North Dakota
- ▶ **Unmet Dental and Oral Health Needs of Children and Individuals with Disabilities** - Study the unmet dental and oral health care needs of low-income children, Native American children, and individuals with disabilities.



31

More Interim studies

- ▶ **Historical Health Care Mandates** - The study must include an analysis of current health care mandates, including when the mandates were enacted, the purpose, effectiveness, and present applicability
- ▶ **Impact of Prior Authorization Requirements on Patient Care and Health Care Costs** - Study prior authorization requirements imposed by PERS uniform group insurance plans under Chapter 54-52.1 and the impact on patient care and health care costs.
- ▶ **Ability to Submit Prior Authorization Reviews for Nonurgent and Emergency Care by Electronic Means** - Study the ability for health care systems and providers to submit prior authorization reviews for nonurgent and emergency health care services by secure electronic means.



32

Rural Transformation Grant

50 Billion dollars from the OBBA for Rural health care

ND guaranteed to receive \$500 million

States compete against each other for other 25 Billion based on a scoring system designed by CMS

33

Rural Factor Scoring

- ▶ University of North Carolina Center for Health Services Research estimated scores based on the CMS RHTP Notice of Funding Opportunity Scoring.
- ▶ North Dakota ranked 40 out of 50 in UNC's interpretation of CMS scoring.



34

Technical Factor Scoring

- ▶ North Dakota can gain points passing policy that CMS deems important
- ▶ Bills approved to move forward to the special session:
 - ▶ PA Compact
 - ▶ Applying for Snap Waiver
 - ▶ Adopting the President Fitness Test
 - ▶ Mandating nutrition CME for physicians
 - ▶ Expanding rights of Pharmacists to prescribe



35

North Dakota Strategic Priorities



STRENGTHEN AND STABILIZE RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE



BRING HIGHQUALITY HEALTH CARE CLOSER TO HOME



MAKE NORTH DAKOTA HEALTHY AGAIN



CONNECT TECH, DATA, AND PROVIDERS FOR A STRONGER ND

36

ND Plan - Strengthen and Stabilize Rural Health Workforce Survey Themes

- ▶ Expand residency training opportunities.
- ▶ Train in place opportunities for the existing workforce to obtain higher credentials.
- ▶ Expand opportunities for health care career education.
- ▶ Improve Retention in Rural and Tribal Communities by expanding loan repayment programs and retention grants.
- ▶ Retention grants for rural providers.
- ▶ Technical assistance to support best practices for retaining clinicians.



37

More workforce ideas

- ▶ Use Technology as an extender for Rural Providers.
- ▶ Equip health facilities with remote monitoring and smart technology to reduce reliance on physical workforce.
- ▶ Use robotics and artificial intelligence for tasks that do not require human intervention to reduce reliance on physical workforce.
- ▶ Provide Technical Assistance and Training for Existing Workforce Behavioral Health training for non-behavioral health workforce.
- ▶ Chronic disease management and engagement training.
- ▶ Obstetric and other specialized training for primary care workforce.



38

Timeline for RTF

- ▶ State's Plan submitted on November 5, 2025
- ▶ Federal Government to award funds by December 31, 2025
- ▶ North Dakota Special Session to authorize release of the funding likely in January 2026
- ▶ Grants will be available to disburse the funding



39

Know Your Legislators



Get to know who represents you



Be familiar with your district; some span wide swaths of area; some are concentrated



Stay informed and stay involved! Many people are unaware of the impact that one email, phone call, or point of contact can have on a legislator as they decide how to vote



On a weekly basis, all NDMA members receive legislative updates, access to a revised "Bill Tracker", and notices of upcoming legislation

40

Advocacy is More Than Legislation

ND Supreme Court - Upholding Damages Cap

Regulatory Issues - Pathology Testing

NDMA is involved in nearly every North Dakota private and public health-related policy committee

Appointment to Boards and Commissions

Officer Leadership within District and NDMA

41

NDMA Annual Meeting

- ▶ Partnered with ACP and SHM
- ▶ Policy Forum issues:
 - ▶ Patient recording
 - ▶ Eyedrop refills
 - ▶ Medicaid advocacy
 - ▶ Community Health Workers
 - ▶ Vaccine Integrity



42

NDMA Annual Award Winners

Robert Sticca, MD
Physician
Community &
Professional Service

Renee Daffinrud
Friend of Medicine

Scott Meyer
Outstanding
Leadership in
Healthcare Policy

Julie Blehm, MD
COPIC
Humanitarian
Award

43



44



- ▶ The program features its very own exam room equipped with basic exam equipment and over-the-counter medication.
- ▶ Coverage is needed Monday through Friday and hours are flexible
- ▶ *You do not need to practice family medicine to volunteer*; many specialties such as thoracic surgeons, urologists, orthopaedic surgeons, hospitalists, and more volunteer for this service.
- ▶ *This program is NOT LIMITED to a one-day event.* Choose as many days as you want.

45

Keeping Physicians Informed

- ▶ E-Physician
 - ▶ Published digitally each week
- ▶ ND Physician Magazine
 - ▶ Print and digital form
- ▶ Social media



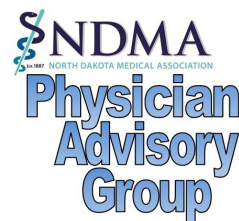
46

Other Benefits of Membership

- ▶ Membership Benefit Partners, such as Copic, Best Card/CHIPD, and Resolve
- ▶ ND Physician Magazine
- ▶ Weekly E-physician
- ▶ COPIC Insurance Partnership
- ▶ Collegiality with Other Physicians

47

- ▶ Physician Advisory Group (PAG)
 - ▶ Up-to-Date News on State-Level Issues
 - ▶ Up-to-Date Information on vaccine developments
 - ▶ Physician Support Group



48

NDMA Contacts

▶ Courtney Koebele, JD
Executive Director
ckoebele@ndmed.com
701-400-6222 cell

▶ Leann Benson
Chief Operating Officer
leann@ndmed.com

▶ Donna Thronson
Communications Director
donna@ndmed.com

Office number: 701-223-9475



Join Today!

**Your membership helps
us do our job, so you
can do yours!**

<https://www.ndmed.org/membership/join-ndma/>