

Creation of Public Health Scorecard for North Dakota Legislators

68th Legislative Assembly - Regular Session of
2023 in North Dakota



Dear legislators, will you stand with us
on public health?



Agenda

- ▶ Background
 - ▶ Methods
 - ▶ Results
 - ▶ Action
 - ▶ Discussion
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Background

- ▶ Public health is a unique state agency empowered by the people and the legislature on behalf of the people to guard the welfare of the people
- ▶ Legislators are elected by the people and thus accountable to them
- ▶ The ND 2023 68th Legislative Assembly entertained a range of public health-related topics; such as, abortion, transgender rights, and vaccination
- ▶ The APHA legislative scorecard was used as guidance to create a ND Legislative Scorecard

APHA Vote No. APHA Position: Yea/Nay		2022 2021		Access to infant formula Federal extreme risk protection orders Gun violence			Right to abortion Climate change & health care		Marriage equality Federal health funding	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
ALABAMA										
1	Carl (R)	17%	0%	+	-	-	-	1	-	-
2	Moore (R)	14%	0%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Rogers (R)	17%	11%	+	-	-	-	1	-	-
4	Aderholt (R)	14%	0%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Brooks (R)	14%	0%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Palmer (R)	14%	0%	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Sewell (D)	100%	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Methods

- ▶ Identified 30 Public Health Bills
- ▶ Validation of 29 bills by 10 public health experts to be scored
- ▶ Record each legislator's vote on those bills
- ▶ Change “Y” and “N” votes to “S” for Support or “A” for against
- ▶ Calculate the score for each legislator, and the score for each bill

Bill Number	HB 1489	A	A	A
Bill Number	HB 1522	S	A	A
Bill Number	SB2140			
Bill Number	HB 1536	S	S	S
Bill Number	HB 1028	S	S	S
Support Score		63%	50%	44%

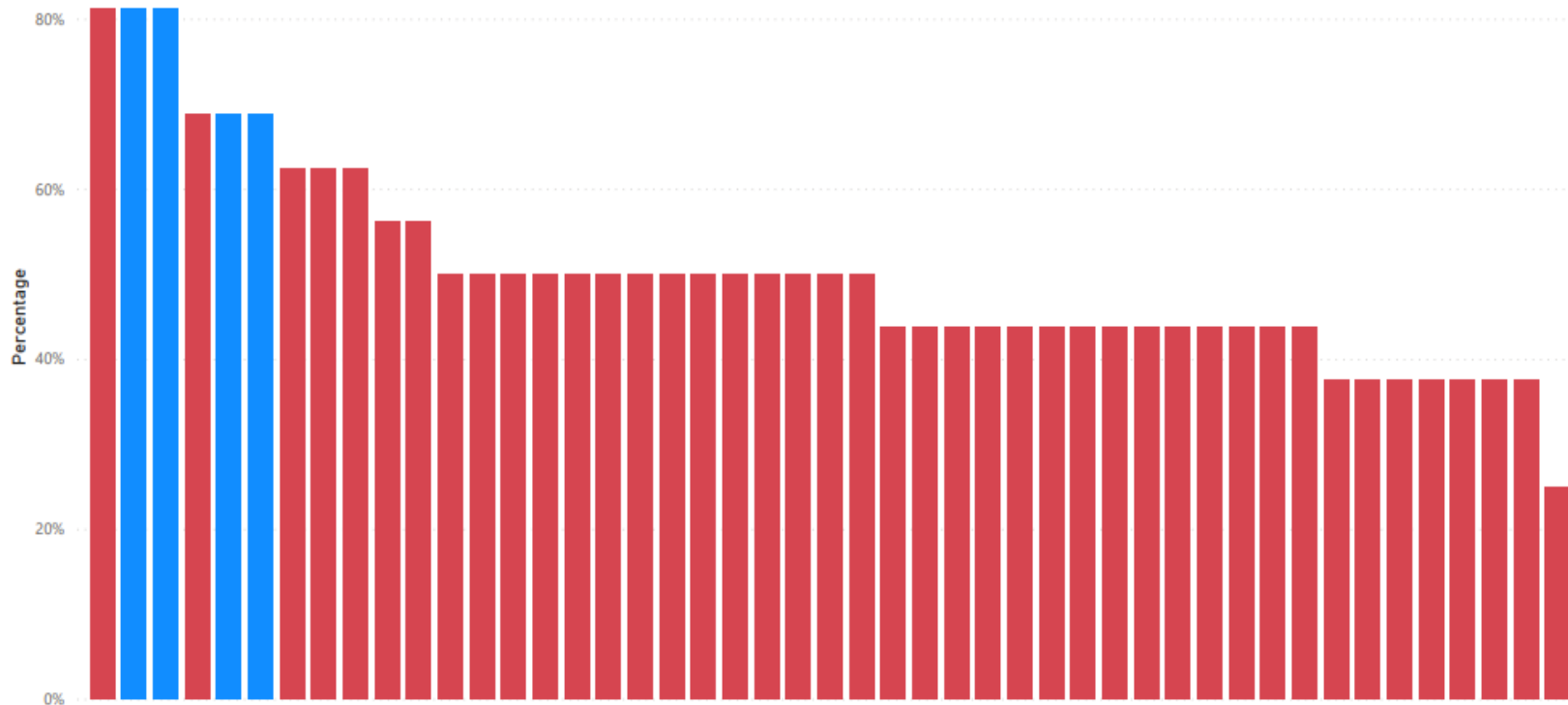
North Dakota 68th Legislative Session

	Republican	Democrat	Total
Senators	43	4	47
Representatives	82	12	94
Total	125	16	

Senate Members Voting

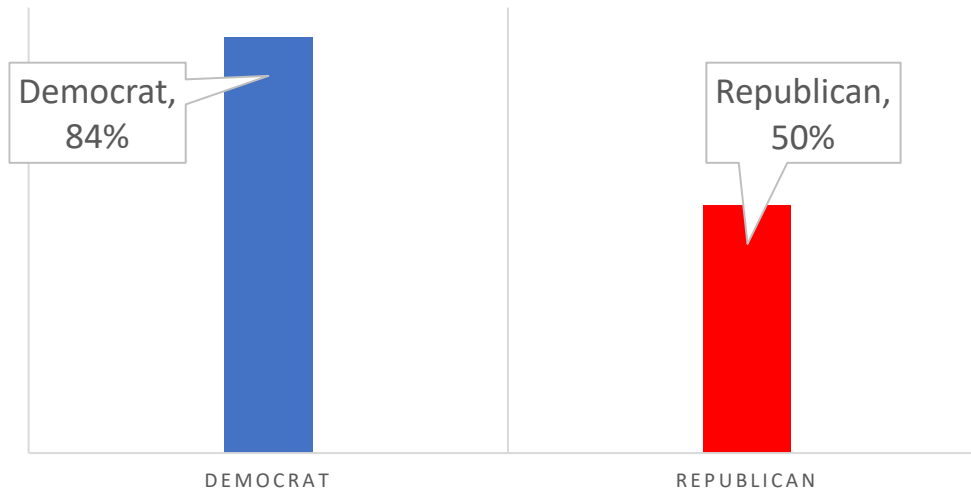
Senate Average Support Score

Party ● Democrat ● Republican

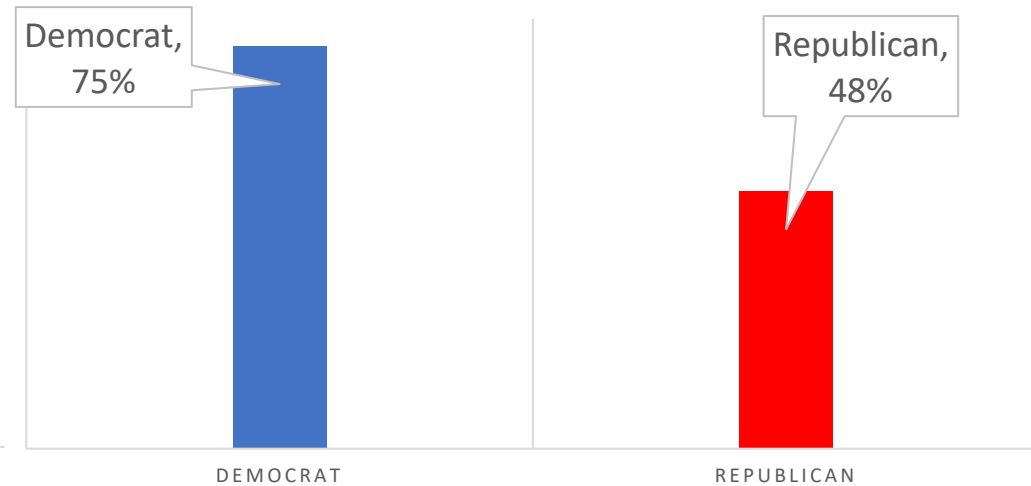


Results

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SUPPORT PERCENTAGE BY
POLITICAL AFFILIATION

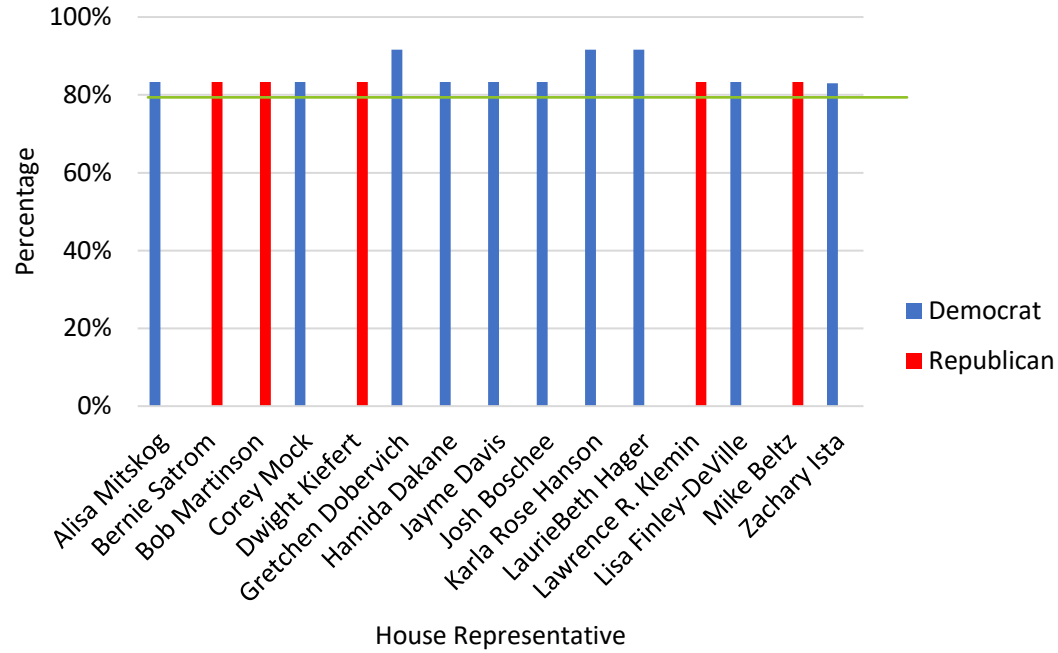


SENATE SUPPORT PERCENTAGE BY
POLITICAL AFFILIATION

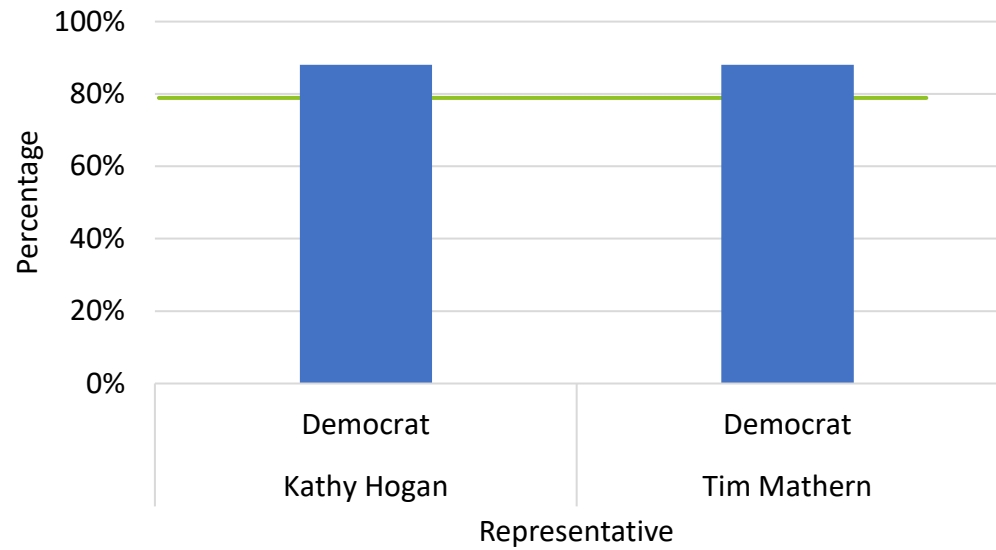


Results

House of Representatives
Averages above 80%

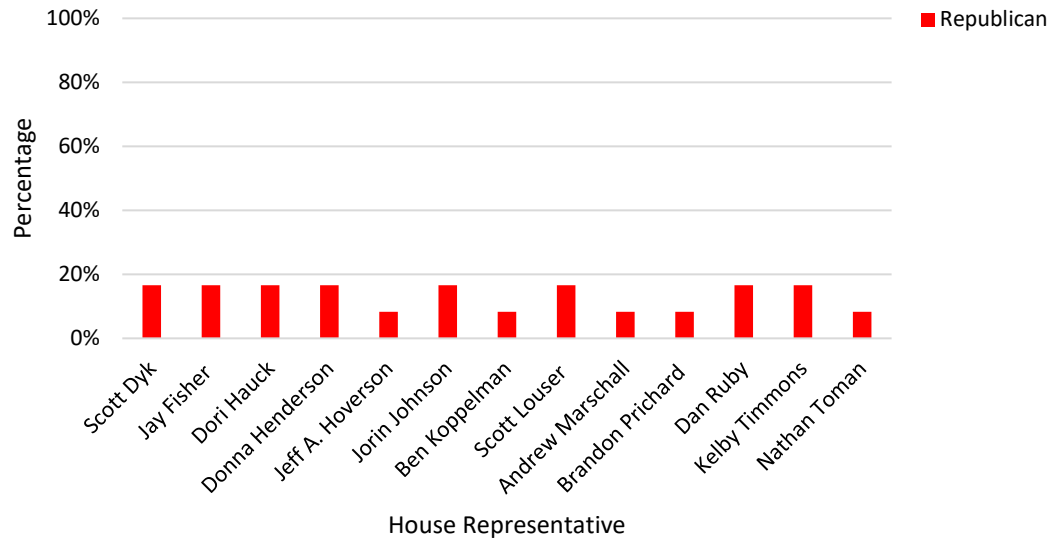


Senate Averages Above 80%

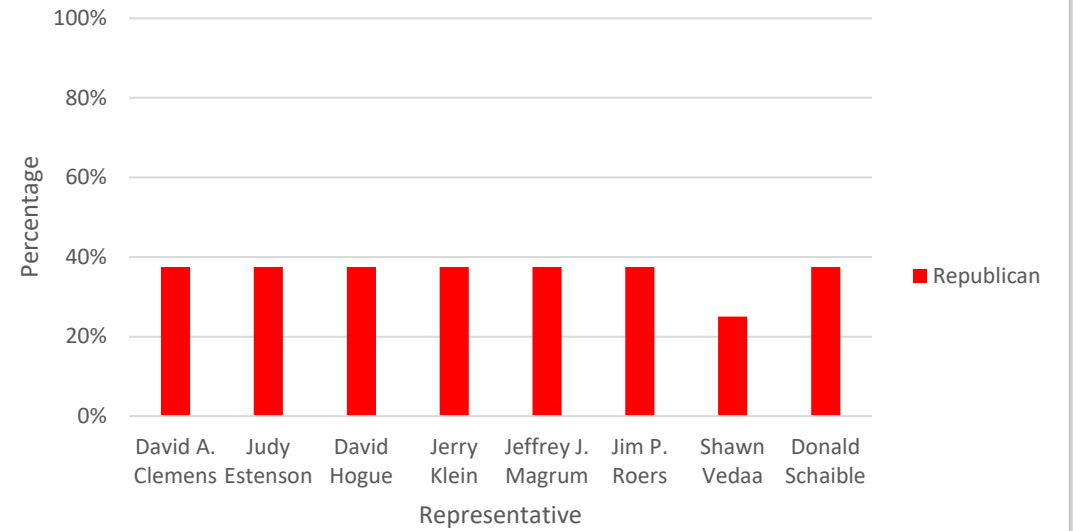


Results

House of Representatives Averages Below 20%

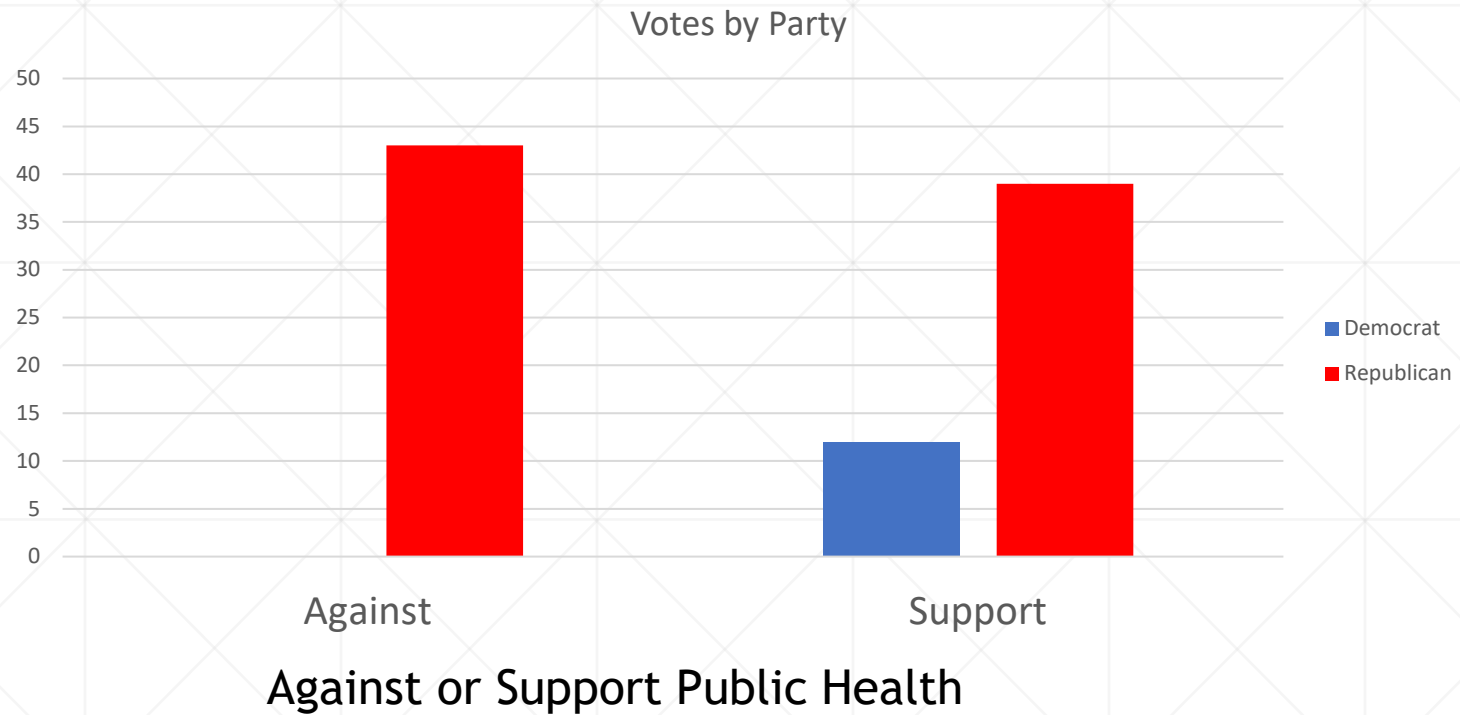


Senate Averages below 40%



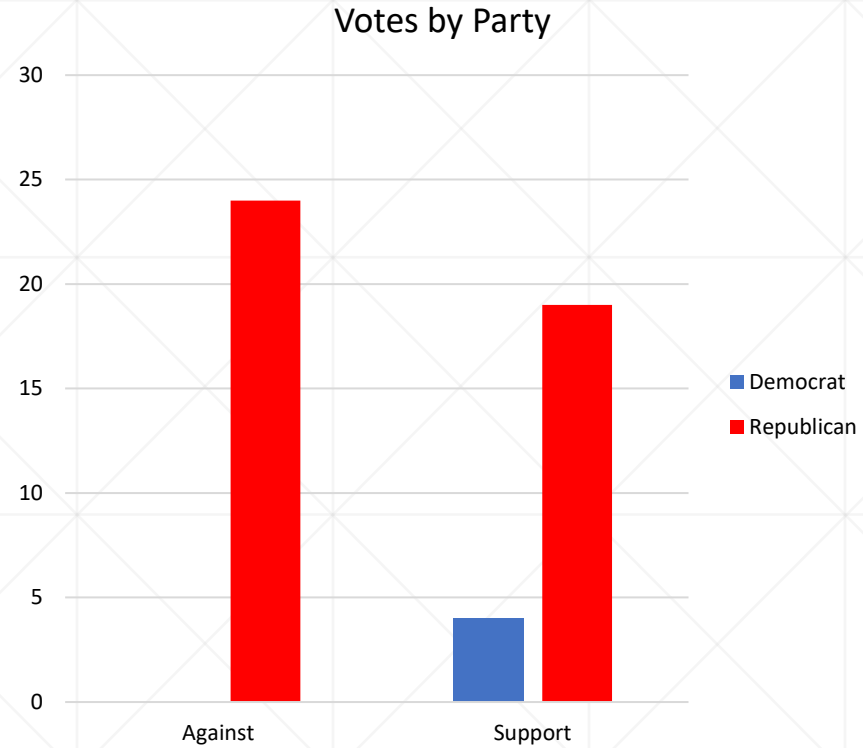
HB 1229

Authorizing approval for cigar lounges



HB 1491

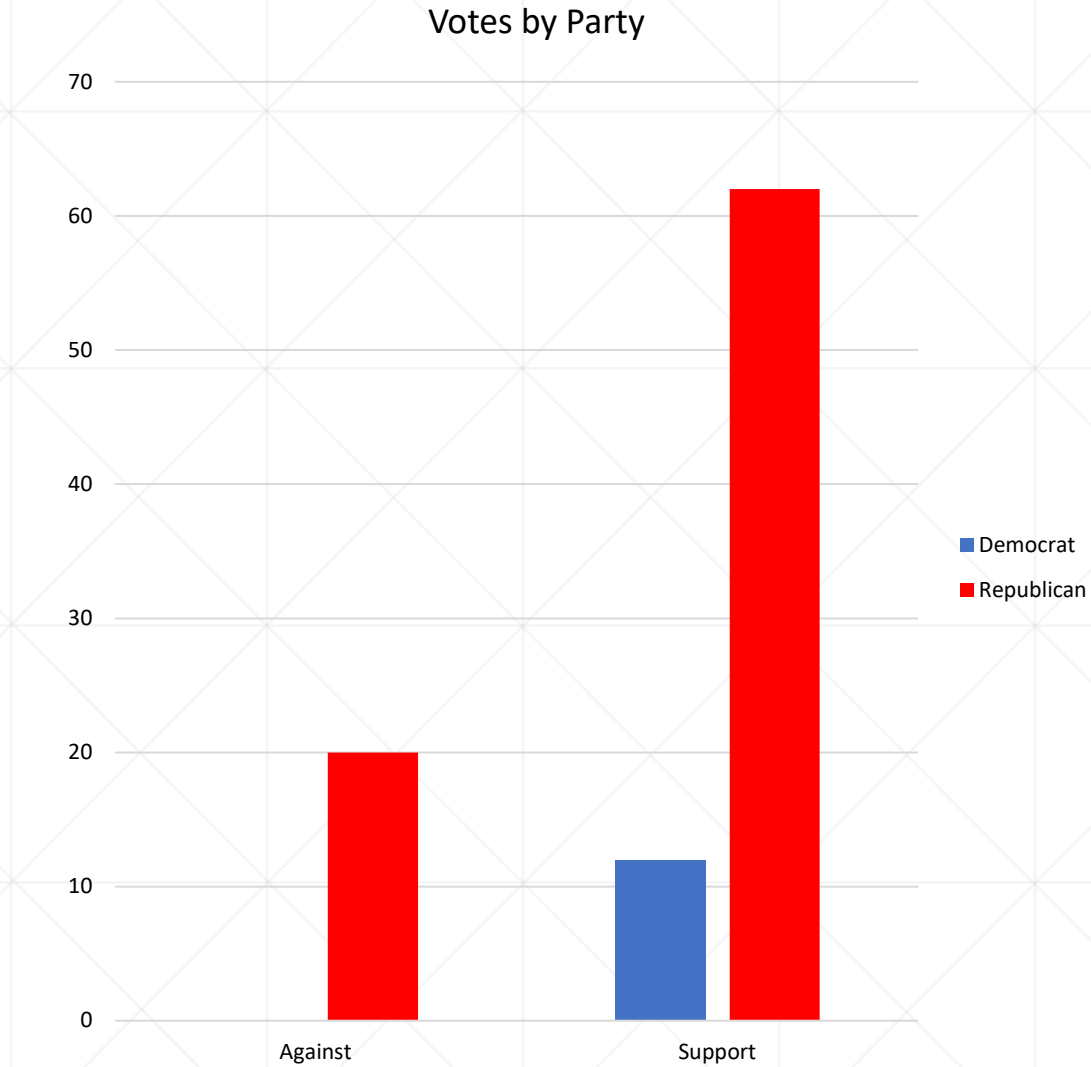
An appropriation to the superintendent of public instruction to provide grants to schools for meals for students.



Against or Support Public Health

SB 2227

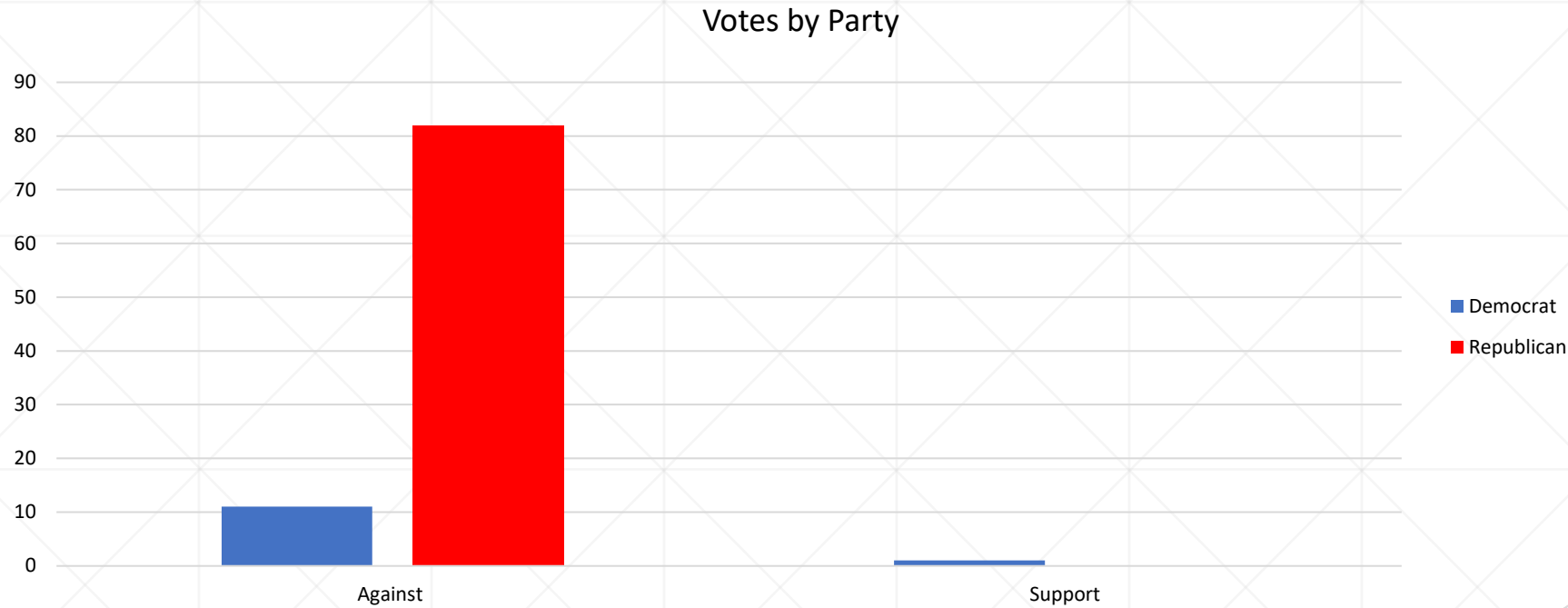
Expanding the membership and clarifying the duties of the North Dakota State Health Council.



Against or Support Public Health

SB 2253

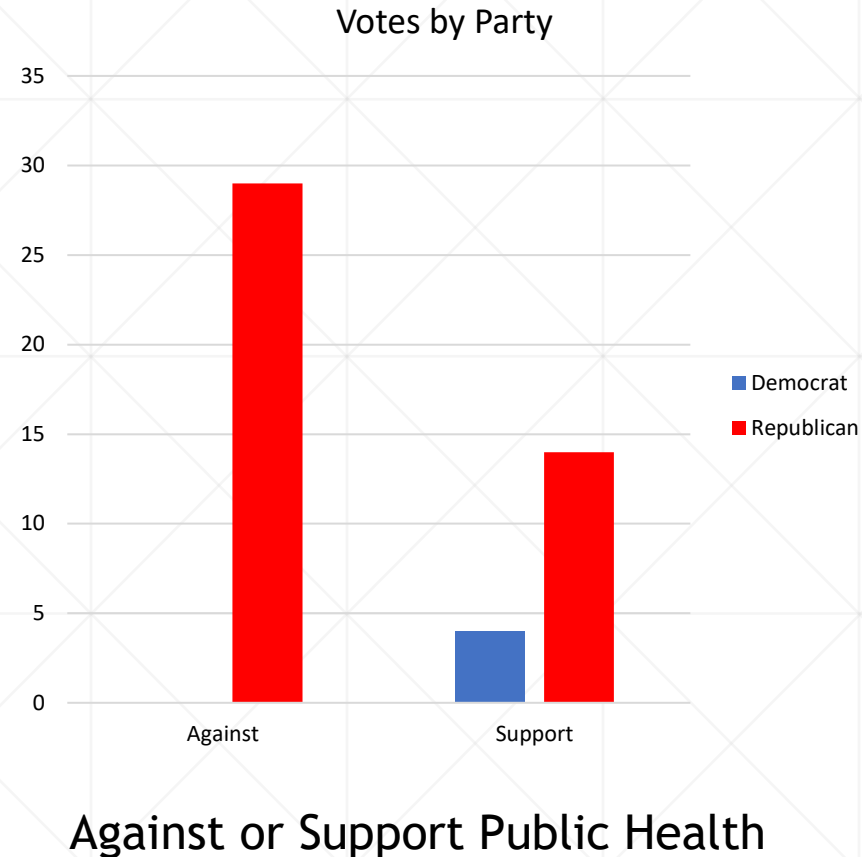
Increased regulation of onsite wastewater treatment system installers, to provide a penalty; and to provide an effective date.



Against or Support Public Health

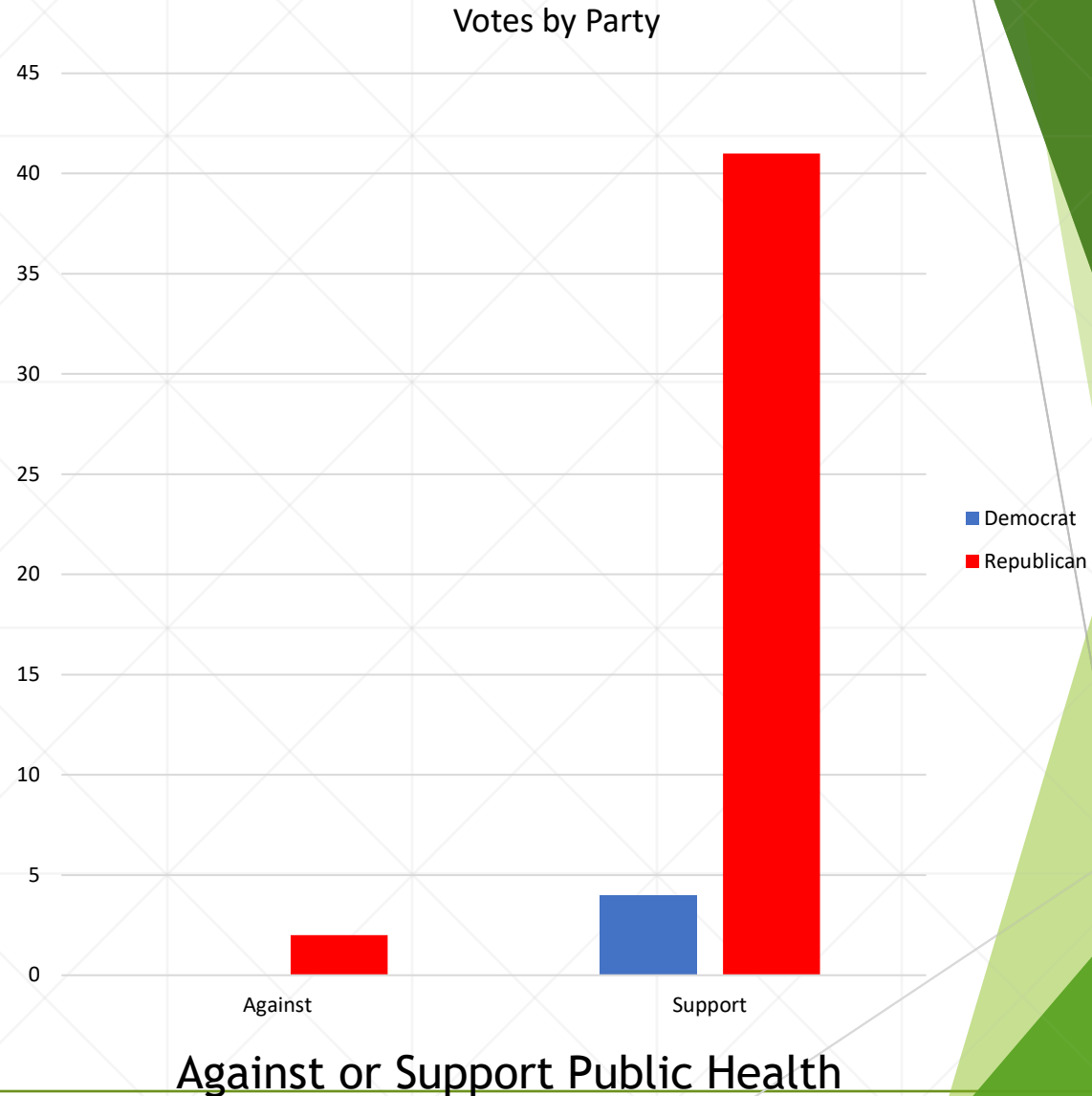
SB 2274

No state government may inquire of an individual's vaccination status or require a vaccine passport for a vaccine that is under emergency use authorization status.



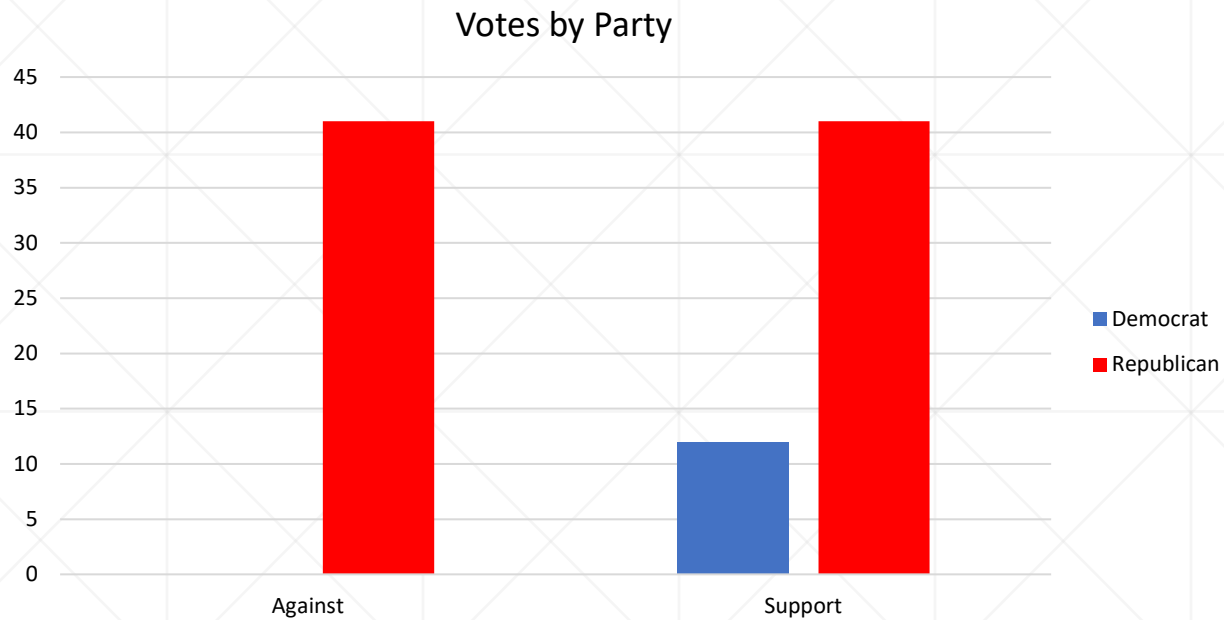
SB 2344

To add nurses to the health care professional student loan repayment program; and to provide an appropriation.



SB 2362

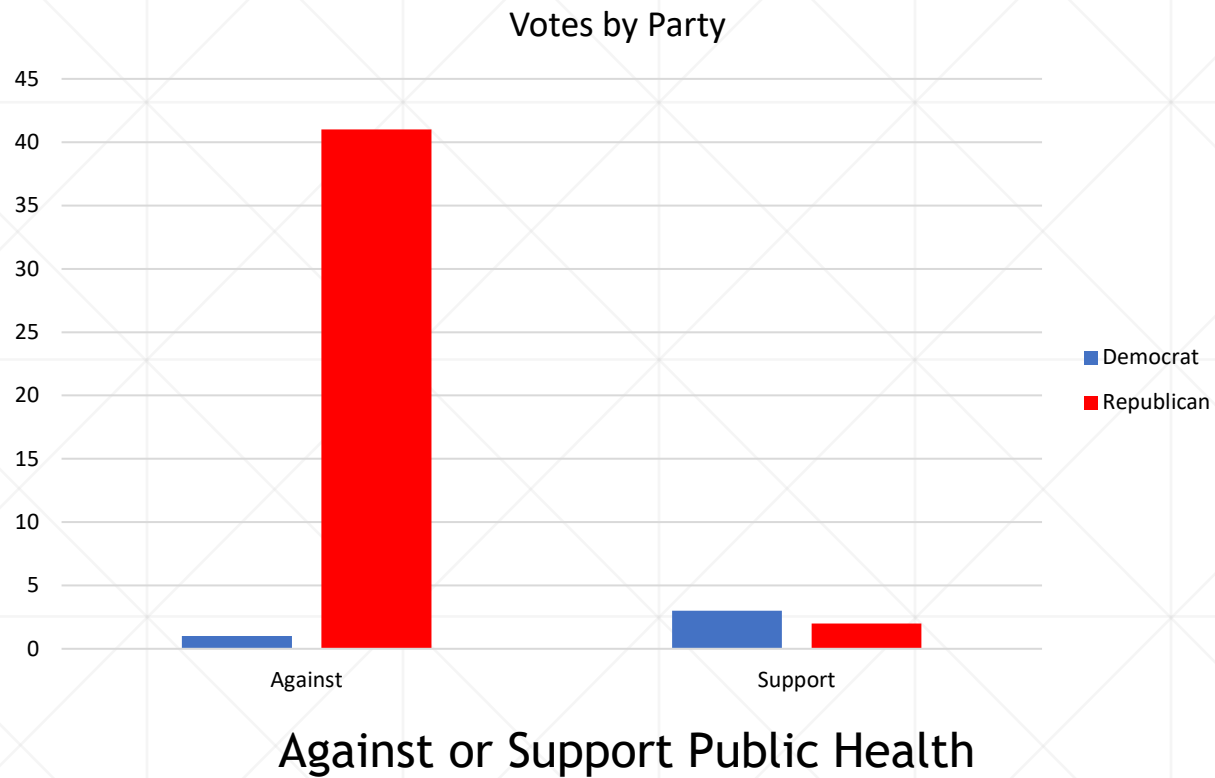
To require seat belt use, with primary enforcement; and to provide a penalty.



Against or Support Public Health

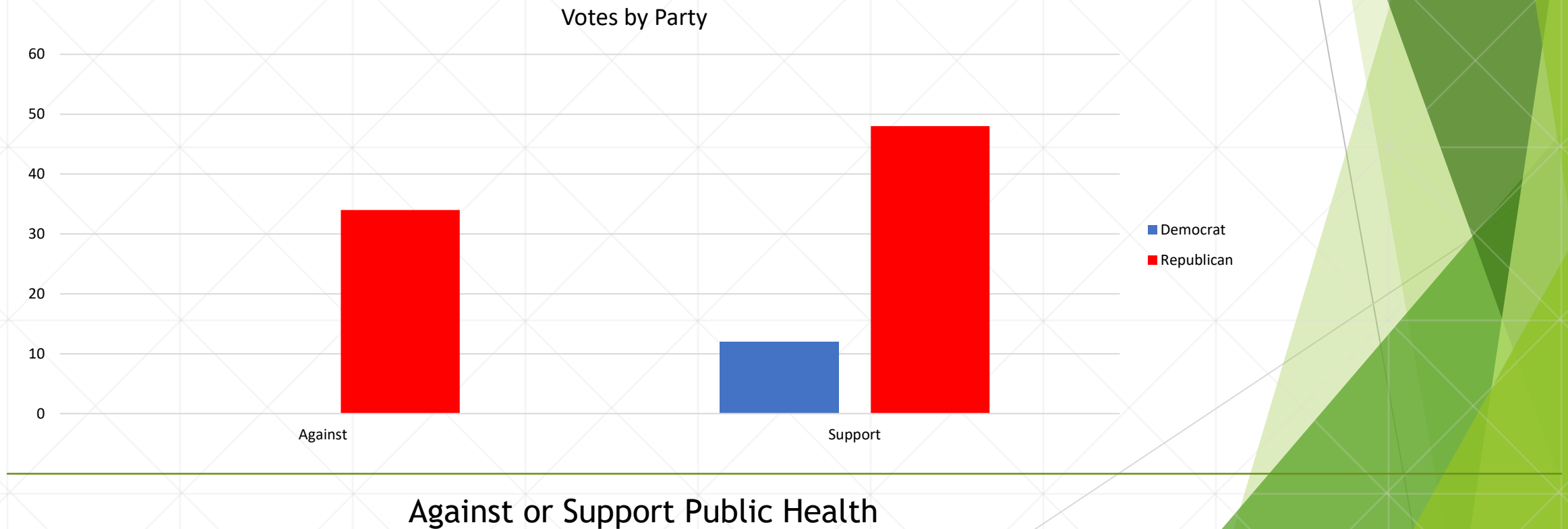
SB 2150

Near total abortion ban, including disciplinary action against a physician.



HB 1505

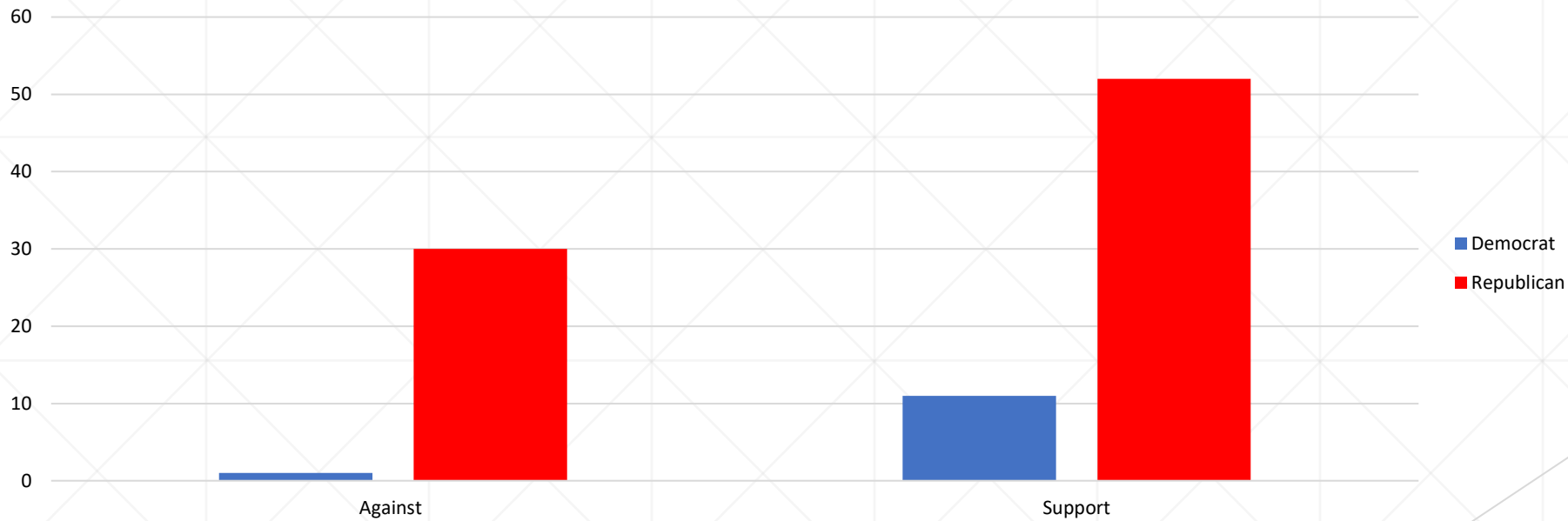
A prohibition on requiring a vaccination; and to provide a penalty.



HB 1540

Dedicate \$65.6 million in state funds to early childhood services and childcare assistance; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide an appropriation; and to provide an effective date.

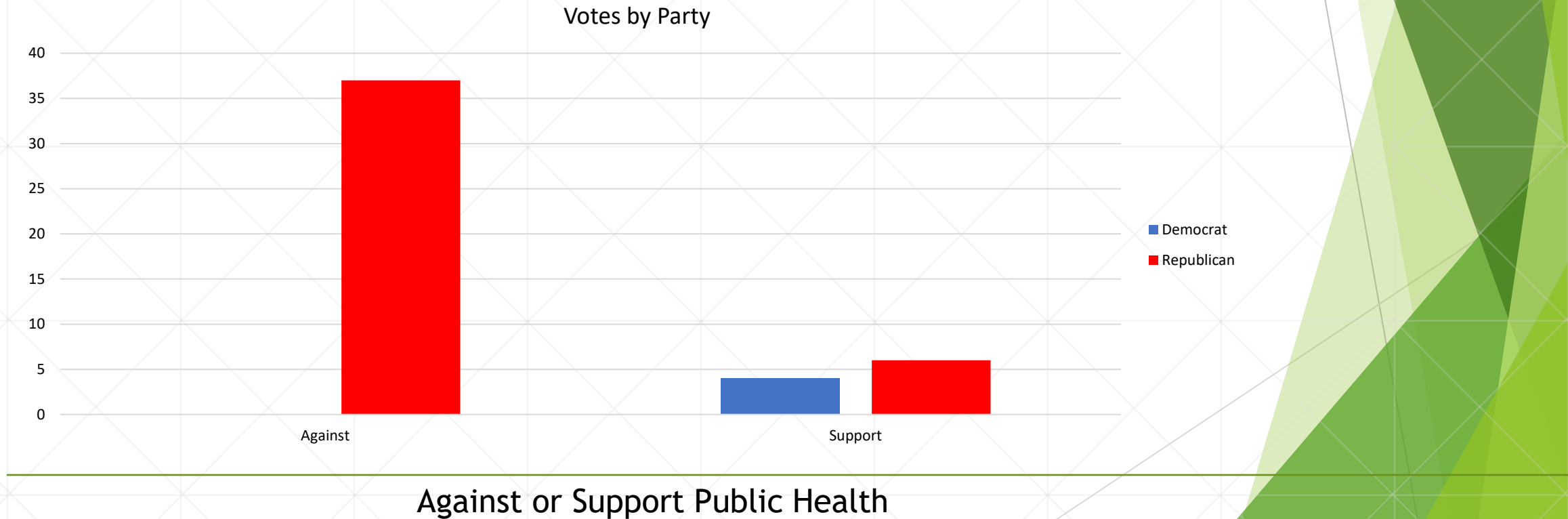
Votes by Party



Against or Support Public Health

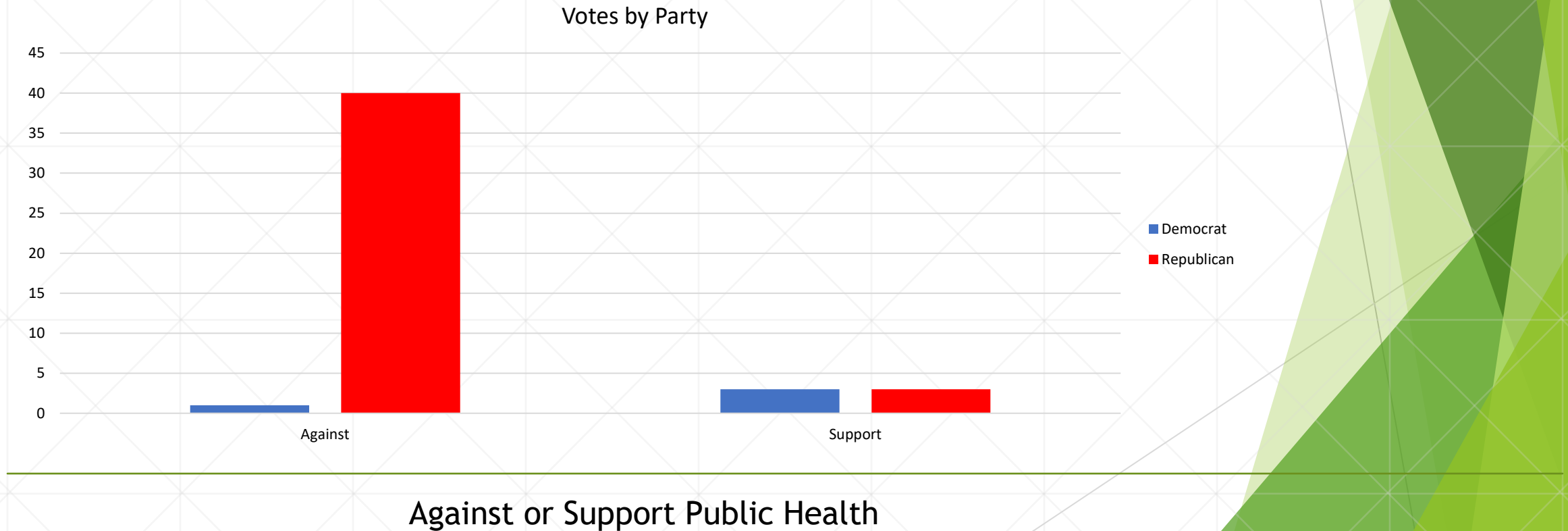
HB 1254

Prohibition of certain practices against a minor (gender-affirming care); to provide a penalty; and to declare an emergency.



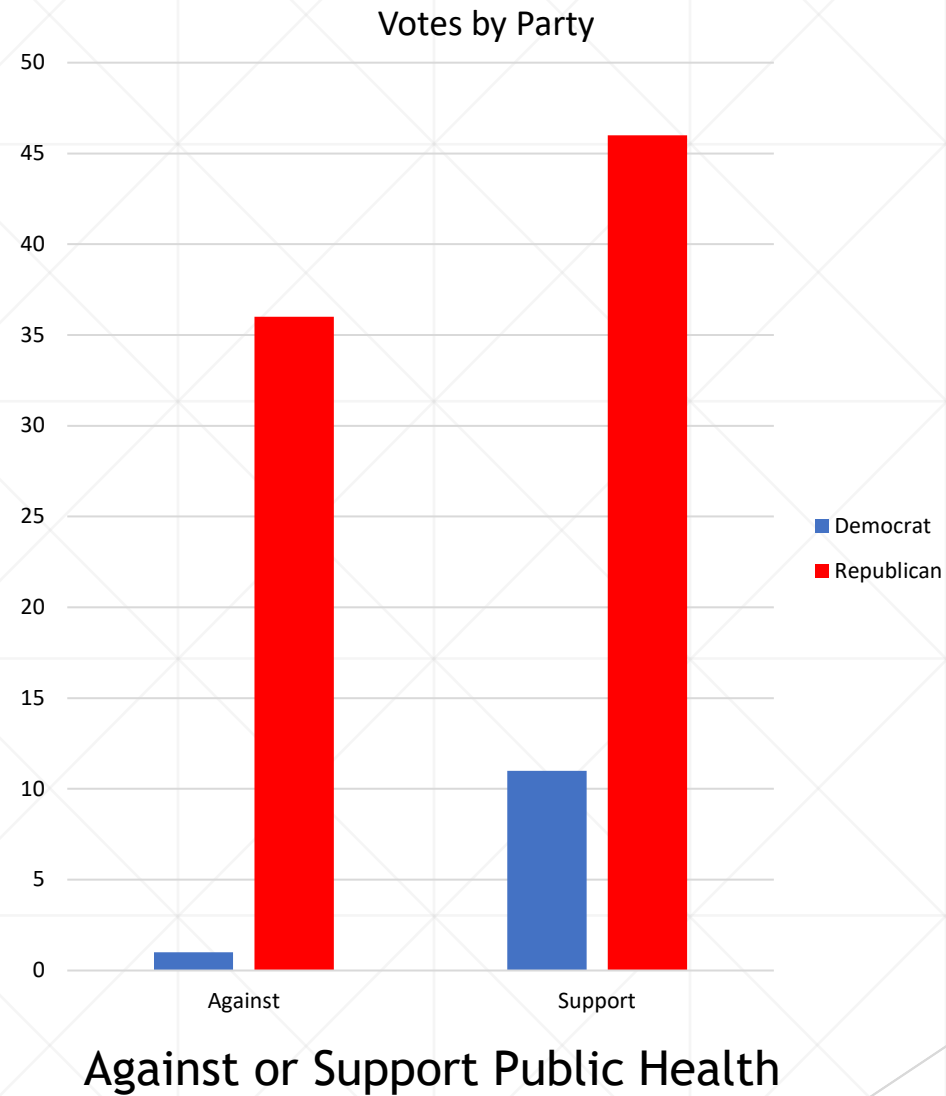
HB 1522

Ban transgender students from using the restrooms that match their gender identity and prohibit schools and government entities from adopting policies that acknowledge the gender identity of their students or employees.



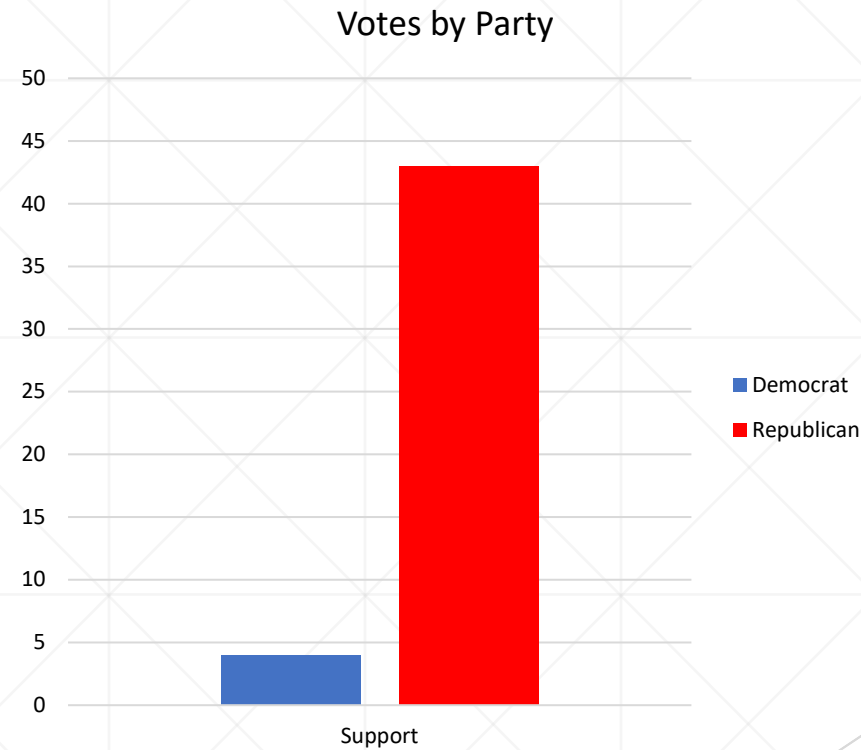
SB 2140

To cap the price of a 30-day supply of insulin at \$25 for NDPERS employees.



HB 1536

Codify the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) into state law, giving tribal governments exclusive jurisdiction over children who reside on, or are domiciled on a reservation.



Against or Support Public Health

Summary

- ▶ The goal of the NDPHA is to promote legislation that is supportive of public health, and achieves the mission of guarding the welfare of the people.
 - ▶ Both Republican and Democrat legislators support public health to some extent, but many don't have a good understanding of public health.
 - ▶ Educating legislators about public health and the importance of legislation supportive of public health is necessary.
 - ▶ The North Dakota legislature has 125 Republican and 16 Democrat legislators. It is necessary to promote public health in ways that align with their values and their party platform.
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Action

- Be aware of public health related bills that are being discussed
 - Get to know your elected officials
 - Meet with your legislators to ask them to support public health
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Acknowledgements

- ▶ NDPHA members for their support of the project and recommendations to improve it.
 - ▶ Brianna DeWitt, NDSU MPH student graduate of 2023, who did the analysis; and Juliana Antwi, NDSU MPH graduate of 2024, who prepared dissemination.
 - ▶ Full Scorecard can be found here: [Scorecard.xlsx](#)
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Discussion

- ▶ Do you support the use of a public health scorecard in North Dakota? What concerns do you have?
 - ▶ What are ways we can educate our legislators about public health?
 - ▶ What public health issues should be prioritized for proposed legislation for the 2025 session?
 - ▶ What recommendations do you have for NDPHA about public health advocacy?
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