

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH
DAKOTA

**AbbVie Inc. et al. v. Drew Wrigley, in his official capacity as the
Attorney General of North Dakota, et al.; AstraZeneca
Pharmaceuticals LP v. Drew Wrigley, in his official capacity as the
Attorney General of North Dakota, et al.; Pharmaceutical Research
and Manufacturers of America v. Drew Wrigley, in his official
capacity as the Attorney General of North Dakota, et al.**

Wrigley · No. 1:25-cv-00081; 1:25-cv-00182; 1:25-cv-00204 · Decided March 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of North Dakota orders the parties in three consolidated pharmaceutical-industry cases to submit simultaneous supplemental briefing. The briefing must address standing, including enforcement and injury, and provide evidence concerning the effects and pharmacy-ownership structure of North Dakota’s prescription-drug system.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of North Dakota
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of North Dakota
DECIDED	March 10, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00081; 1:25-cv-00182; 1:25-cv-00204
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The consolidated cases were before the district court on fully briefed motions and cross-motions for summary judgment and judgment on the pleadings. Before deciding those motions, the court ordered simultaneous supplemental briefing on standing and North Dakota-specific evidence concerning the challenged statute’s impact.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential interlocutory order for additional briefing
PARTIES	AbbVie Inc. et al., AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America v. Drew Wrigley, in his official capacity as the Attorney General of North Dakota, et al.

TOPICS

standing summary judgment motion for judgment on the pleadings subject matter jurisdiction
civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure health law constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the plaintiffs have standing, including injury and any enforcement of the challenged statute after its July 1, 2025 effective date.
2. What additional North Dakota-specific evidence is needed to determine the challenged law's impact and whether North Dakota pharmacies act as agents for covered entities or retain title to medications.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, the Court ORDERS additional briefing by all Parties on the issue of standing, specifically enforcement and injury, and the issue of specific data on the impact in North Dakota.” (¶ 5)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The cases challenge North Dakota statutory provisions concerning pharmacy ownership and the distribution or delivery of medications. The parties' existing briefing relied substantially on national statistics and estimates, including evidence concerning Walgreens contract pharmacies. The court noted that North Dakota has no Walgreens pharmacies and has long-standing pharmacy-ownership laws, making some national evidence potentially irrelevant to the structure and operation of the system in North Dakota.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed three related actions against the North Dakota Attorney General and other defendants. The actions were consolidated and the parties fully briefed motions and cross-motions for summary judgment and judgment on the pleadings. The court scheduled a motion hearing for March 26, 2026, but ordered additional briefing before the hearing on standing, including enforcement and injury, and on evidence specific to North Dakota.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992)
- PhRMA v. McClain, 95 F.4th 1136 (8th Cir. 2024)
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. v. Frey, 2025 WL 2813787, at *6 (D. Me. Sept. 23, 2025)
- AbbVie Inc. v. Skrmetti, 2025 WL 1805271, at *11 (M.D. Tenn. June 30, 2025)

- AbbVie Inc. v. Bailey, 2025 WL 1918948, at *8-*9 (E.D. Mo. July 11, 2025)

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