



NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF MEDICINE

Established 1890

4204 Boulder Ridge Rd Suite 260 • Bismarck, ND 58503-6162

Phone (701) 450-4060 • Fax (701) 989-6392

www.ndbom.org

Sandra DePountis
Executive Director

Lynette McDonald
Deputy Executive Director

North Dakota Board of Medicine Letter in Opposition to HB 1472

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of HB 1472. HB 1472 allows any individual to provide “complementary or alternative care” but the bill does not define what that scope of “care” and practice would include, or any sort of education or experience requirements of those administering this “care.”

It is the mission of the North Dakota Board of Medicine to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by licensing only competent and qualified individuals to practice medicine in North Dakota. This bill would undermine this mission and responsibility by allowing any individual to practice medicine as long as they do not engage in the “prohibited acts.” A definition of “complementary or alternative care” is therefore necessary to prevent the unqualified practice of medicine or to confer authority to undertake the examination, diagnosis, or treatment of any disease, injury, or physical or mental condition except by a properly trained licensed health practitioner.

In addition, the bill outlines a small list of prohibited acts, required disclosures, and even goes as far to say those in noncompliance will get a written notice and thereafter be subject to mediation, but the bill does not delineate what entity is responsible for enforcing such provisions. To allow such an expansive practice to go unchecked or regulated could have severe repercussions on those individuals needing and seeking medical attention.

It is for these reasons the North Dakota Board of Medicine opposes HB 1472. Please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions. We would be happy to provide further information, testimony, and answer any questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dr. Robert Sticca

Chair, Legislative Committee
North Dakota Board of Medicine

Mission Statement

The Board's mission is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by regulating the practice of medicine, thereby ensuring quality health care for the citizens of this state.