

Phoenix Natural Family Medicine
4535 S. Lakeshore Dr. Ste. 2
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(480)-389-1099

3.23.2021

Dear Chairman Wiesz and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing in full support of expanding the scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors in North Dakota. I am a 5th-generation North Dakota. My parents, grandparents and many other relatives continue to live in ND, and I visit several times per year. I was born in Dickinson and earned my bachelor's degree from UND. However, after graduating from the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, AZ, and passing my medical boards, I decided to stay in AZ, because at the time, North Dakota did not license Naturopathic Doctors.

I have had a thriving practice in AZ for over 10 years, and enjoy primary care status, the ability to diagnose and treat diseases, order and interpret labs, prescribing rights (including some controlled substances for which I have a DEA number), minor surgical rights, phlebotomy, IV therapy and injection therapy. If these rights and privileges had been in place in North Dakota when I was deciding where to practice, I would likely be in practice there today. My practice is focused on pain and aesthetics, and as the laws currently stand, I would not be able to do a fraction of what I can do in Arizona, in North Dakota.

It is crucial to know that the education we received at SCNM was top-notch and I felt prepared to safely manage patients currently on medication, introduce or transition to a new medication, or discontinue medication when necessary. For the benefit of the people of North Dakota, whom I miss and deeply cherish, I hope that you will give a "do pass" recommendation to expand the scope of practice of North Dakota's highly trained and competent Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Preston Hesler", with a small flourish at the end.

Sarah Preston Hesler, ND