

March 8, 2021

Dear Chairman Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Kris Anderson, and I am a chiropractor in Grand Forks representing the ND Chiropractic Association in support of SB 2060. We hope you will recommend DO PASS.

The ND State Board of Chiropractic Examiners has undertaken a significant effort to clarify the scope of practice of chiropractic in ND. We support their approach to bring clarity and simplicity to their work, which is in addition to recent updates to the administrative code. Calling your attention to two provisions that are most relevant to our position as the voice for the profession in ND, my final comments relate to the inclusion of the definition of telehealth in Section 1 (43-06-01.5) and the addition of a civil monetary penalty during disciplinary proceedings in Section 4 (43-06-04.1.3).

First, the definition of telehealth is needed to clarify how chiropractors interact with patients using telehealth. Chiropractors are included in the definitions of "health care provider" in NDCC 26.1 - 36 - 09.15, which describes "coverage of telehealth," but confusion exists around what services chiropractors provide using telehealth. Sometimes, chiropractic care is viewed only as hands-on services, which is untrue. The telehealth definition resolves this confusion.

Second, by adding the power to impose a civil monetary penalty during disciplinary proceedings, we hope license fees for all chiropractors will not continue to increase. When a disciplinary case escalates to include court proceedings and then remains in court for an extended period, we all bear the costs in the form of increased fees. Once a case is closed, costs can then be brought to bear by the individual if a violation is found in the affirmative. However, future license fees remain at an increased rate. As written, the solution may be imperfect, but we acknowledge a problem exists, and we support a solution that protects all licensees against increased fees due to frivolous lawsuits.

Thank you for your work to consider SB 2060. We believe it will make significant and important updates to the chiropractic scope of practice. Coupled with the recent updates to the administrative code, we believe SB 2060 will improve the work done by the board of chiropractic examiners to represent the public interests related to the practice of chiropractic in ND.

Sincerely,

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