

Dakota

Natural Health Center

SB# 2274 Naturopathic Scope Bill
Dr. Stephanie Nishek, ND
Senate Human Services Committee
February 1, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I'm writing today asking for a DO PASS recommendation on SB#2274. I am one of the licensed and practicing Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) here in North Dakota (since 2014) and also serve as the President of the North Dakota Association of Naturopathic Doctors (NDAND).

As President of NDAND, one of my priorities is to make North Dakota a desirable location for more NDs to establish themselves and build their practices. North Dakotans are traveling hundreds of miles for the type of care and services Naturopathic Doctors provide. I, myself, maintain two practices in two different cities, 100 miles apart and visit with dozens of people in both locations every week. There simply are not enough of us to meet our population's demand. In order to appeal to prospective NDs and ND students, we must have a scope of practice that is desirable to doctors who have invested such a substantial amount of time and money into their education and career outlook. Not to mention, our patients deserve to have their prescription needs met by their chosen, qualified healthcare provider.

I also want to proactively address the typical opposition to our scope expansion efforts. The North Dakota Medical Association Board, lobbyist and members are not the experts in the depth, breadth and adequacy of the naturopathic medical education. Their opposition to Naturopathic Doctors being granted the same prescribing rights as Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners should carry limited value. My ND colleagues will be providing ample factual information that accurately portrays our education and competency and a number of collaboratively-minded healthcare providers in North Dakota, including Medical Doctors, will be extending their support of our efforts based on their actual experiences and relationships with us.

We are simply asking for are the same prescriptive rights that all other independently-practicing healthcare providers in North Dakota have been granted before us.

I would be happy to discuss this further. Please feel free to get in touch for any reason.

Thank you,



Stephanie Nishek, ND

Bismarck, ND

drstephanienishek@gmail.com

Phone: (701) 258-9418
FAX: (701) 258-9423
Toll Free: (800) 290-7028

705 E. Main Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
www.dakotarx.com