

SB 2274 – Naturopathic Scope Bill
Senate Human Services Committee
February 1, 2021

Good morning, Madam Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Bina. I am here today urging you to make a Do Pass recommendation for Senate Bill 2274 – Naturopathic Bill. I am a teacher and have worked for Bismarck Public Schools for 12 years. My husband and I are life-long residents of North Dakota and have been seeing a Naturopathic Doctor in Bismarck for the last five years.

We originally became involved with Naturopathic Medicine during a time when my husband was experiencing both acute and chronic health concerns. At our first visit with the Naturopathic Doctor, we were immediately impressed by the extensiveness of her medical training, her warm and compassionate nature, and her attentiveness to our concerns or questions. As my husband's health concerns resolved and our family grew in number, we continued to use our Naturopathic Doctor for many of our family's primary care needs.

Our Naturopathic Doctor has continuously proven herself to be competent and effective as our primary care provider. We are confident and trust in her ability to assess, diagnose, and treat acute or chronic conditions using the appropriate therapies for the right situation. She takes the time to educate us about disease prevention and explains all possible treatment options as well as their associated benefits, risks, and expected outcomes.

Under the state's current scope of practice, Naturopathic Doctors cannot dispense pharmaceuticals; this is a disadvantage to consumers as it requires them to make unnecessary visits to additional medical providers and dictates where they can spend their healthcare dollars. If I am seeing my Naturopathic Doctor and an antibiotic is recommended, I am then required to see additional healthcare providers to dispense the antibiotic that was originally recommended by the Naturopathic Doctor. North Dakotans deserve the freedom to choose where to spend their healthcare dollars without redundant medical visits because of the current restriction in prescription writing privileges for Naturopathic Doctors within our states.

Since I began seeing a Naturopathic Doctor, it has become more difficult to schedule appointments with her due to the increased demand for Naturopathic Medicine in our state and her large patient population. As Naturopathic Medicine continues to grow in popularity, our small but impactful group of 8 Naturopathic Doctors in North Dakota cannot keep up. Attaining more Naturopathic Doctors in our state would increase access to and provide more opportunity to utilize Naturopathic Medicine for all citizens including myself and my family. To match increased demands, it would be most

beneficial for our citizens and for our economy to pass this bill and increase Naturopathic scope of practice. This action would make our state more appealing to new graduates as it would allow them to practice Naturopathic medicine as a full-scope primary care health provider.

Our North Dakota Naturopathic Doctors have proven themselves to be qualified and effective primary care providers for my family, myself, and many other citizens throughout the state. I am asking for your support and urge a Do Pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2274 – Naturopathic Bill. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Bina