

Greetings,

I am writing regarding Senate Bill 2274.

My intent is not to dismiss naturopathy practices. I believe they have a role in patient care as any other healthcare professional. I am a bit confused that they are asking for drug prescriptions privileges when, naturopathy is based on a theory of treating and preventing diseases without the use of drugs, by techniques such as diet, exercise, tissue manipulation, and herbal supplements, allowing our own body to heal without the use of any chemicals and that is the main reason why some people are drawing to a naturopath.

I understand completely that the practice of medicine has evolved into a team approach where every team member plays a vital role in the overall care as long as each team member performs to the fullest of their scope of practice.

One of the most common mistakes that occur during Medical treatment is an error in medication. Most related to legend drugs. Ranked third after Misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis. The error occurs either by prescribing the wrong medication or the wrong dose, or failing to account for drug interactions, or inability to recognize side effects and promptly intervening.

Pharmacology class and few hours of clinical rotation as an observer do not qualify for prescribing privileges. Even pharmacists in the state of North Dakota are not allowed to prescribe medications. It is best to preserve this right to clinicians, educated and trained through a rigorous curriculum that allows them to harness the necessary skills to provide the best and safest care possible.

Naturopathy is an alternative to traditional medicine, and it should be left at this. I personally refer patient to naturopath when medical therapy fails as I also get referral from naturopaths when their therapy fails. If they feel the need to prescribe medications it may be a good reason to refer these patients to a traditional clinician for further evaluation.

I urge you not to approve Senate Bill 2274 even with its amendment and keep the naturopath scope of practice limited as is for the sake of our patients and the health of North Dakotans.

I will be happy to address any concerns or answering any further questions.

Thank you for all you do and your time at the Capitol.

I did send a similar email to other members of the committee.

Fadel Nammour, M.D.