

House Human Services Committee  
HB 1221  
January 16, 2023

Dear Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Dr Ana Tobiasz, MD and I am a Maternal Fetal Medicine physician in Bismarck. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 1221. I am asking the committee to give this bill a Do Pass recommendation.

All members of the health care team are important and have their role, however it is a frequent occurrence where patients will be misled as to the type of practitioner they had seen during a visit. This happens to my patients frequently when I am referring them for consultation with other specialities or when they refer to their primary care provider as their “doctor” only to find out that they had actually seen a nurse practitioner, naturopath, or other non-physician provider. The reason this happens is because the provider is not being transparent as to their qualifications. The training that physicians complete as compared to non-physician providers such as physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or naturopaths is vastly different. Patients should be allowed to see the type of practitioner they prefer.

While there is no question that non physician providers play a vital role in the health care team, it is misleading to patients to represent themselves as “doctors” without clarifying which type of doctor they are. If the qualifications of the providers are not visible and transparent, we are not allowing patients to receive the care they deserve, prefer, and are ultimately paying for.

Patients and families should be aware of the qualifications of the practitioner giving them their care. For this reason, I ask for a Do Pass recommendations for HB 1221.

Dr Ana Tobiasz, MD  
Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician