

1/15/23

I testify in support of HB1221 regarding health care transparency. This legislation requires all North Dakota healthcare providers to clearly state and post their education and licensure when communicating and interacting with their patients.

I am a Wahpeton native and family physician and geriatrician. I graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and completed some of my post graduate training in the state. My career and family life have taken me to several other states but I returned to my home state to practice and retired from Sanford Health.

Patients have a right to know who is providing their treatment. As a retired physician who is now viewing healthcare from the patient side, one particular aspect of the HB 1221 really resonated with me. That's the clause requiring health care workers to wear a visible identification badge which includes a recent photo and their license type. During most of my medical encounters as a patient, health care workers have their badges flipped over or hanging on a lanyard where they can't be read. Even the routine procedure of obtaining a patient's medical history and medication list requires training, experience, and a pledge of confidentiality. Being able to easily verify that the worker has an appropriate license is very reassuring to me that my care will be provided in a professional manner.

On a larger scale this legislation requires that marketing materials regarding treatment of health conditions include the health care providers' education and licensure information which improves patient safety.

Thank you for your consideration,

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