

Testimony House Bill 1221- IN SUPPORT
Human Services Committee
Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
January 16, 2023

Greetings Chairman Weisz, Vice Chair Ruby, and House Human Services Committee,

My name is Joan Connell. I am a local pediatrician in support of HB 1221. This bill allows for patients to easily see their healthcare providers' credentials by having providers clearly display their credentials on their person and/or at their offices as well as prohibiting false advertising of credentials.

Historically, a visit with Dr. So-and-So meant a visit with your MD or DO trained physician. As I am sure you are aware, there has been a significant increase in the number and type of advanced practice providers with doctoral degrees, which is great as we continue to strive to meet the health care needs of patients in our state. You are also likely aware of the growing diversity of healthcare providers including pharmacists, naturopaths, physical therapists, chiropractors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and physicians. With the exception of physician assistants, many of these other providers have graduated from doctoral level programs, each requiring a unique set of coursework and experiential training. Some of these practitioners are covered by health insurance. Others are not. Some have prescriptive rights. Some do not. Some are promoted to put the "health" in health care while others are promoted to put the "care" in health care.