

Testimony on HB 1512

Good morning, Chairman Warrey and members of the Industry, Business and Labor Committee. I am Representative Don Vigesaa from District 29 in east central North Dakota. I represent Griggs County, Steele County, Foster County, Nelson County and most of rural Stutsman County. It is my privilege to introduce HB 1512 on behalf of a constituent from District 29. My constituent had an unpleasant dental experience which will cost him tens of thousands of dollars to rectify. He seeks no remedy from his experience but wishes to make changes to the make-up and procedures of the State Board of Dental Examiners to enable consumers in the future to avoid situations like he experienced.

HB 1512 amends 43-28-03 and 43-28-18.2 of the NDCC relating to members of the state board of dental examiners and an individual's ability to file a complaint. Section 1 adds two additional independent consumer members to the board. Section 2 states that the board shall direct a complaint committee to investigate a consumer complaint and that the consumer filing the complaint must receive a copy of the dentist's response. Finally, also in section 2, an individual who filed a complaint, resulting in disciplinary action or a finding of misconduct, is entitled to recover their costs incurred.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, please give strong consideration to the changes suggested in HB 1512. When you hear about the journey my constituent is experiencing, I believe you will agree that processes could be enhanced to improve consumer satisfaction when disputes arise.

Thank you,

Rep. Don Vigesaa

District 29