

Vision

The North Dakota Healthcare Association will take an active leadership role in major healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Healthcare Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

Industry, Business and Labor Interim Committee August 21, 2008

Chairman Berg, members of the Industry, Business and Labor Interim Committee, I am Arnold Thomas, President of the North Dakota Healthcare Association.

In our view, the current role and functions of the Board of Pharmacy and the professional association are not clear. While we support a strong oversight role of the Board of Pharmacy for ensuring quality pharmacy practice and safety, and also support the right of professionals to join together with others for the professions advancement, we see no justification for mandating membership in a specific private sector association as a condition of licensure. Among our reasons

- Association membership is not mandated for any other health entity in ND.
- We find no evidence or indication that voluntary association membership is a risk to professional integrity.
- We are unaware of any other state entity which sets fees to support its own functions and those of a private entity whose members it regulates.

Recommendations:

1. Restrict the use of licensure fees to pay for the operating costs of the Board of Pharmacy
2. Eliminate the licensure requirement of membership in the Association.