

**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
September 18, 2008

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

1. Currently the Board of Pharmacy collects dues annually as a requirement for licensure. Half of the dues are transferred to the Association. Why is a state agency whose responsibility in preserving the public's welfare through regulation of the professional practice of pharmacy, collecting and transferring monies to a private professional association? No other ND health profession or health organization regulated by the State has this type of financial arrangement with their respective state regulatory agencies.
2. The budget necessary for the Board of Pharmacy to fulfill its responsibilities is approved by the Legislature. Because half the licensure fees collected by the Board are given to the Pharmacy Association, is there legislative responsibility for how these funds are used by a private sector professional association?
3. As the state entity responsible for regulating the professional practice of pharmacy, on what basis does this Board of Pharmacy advocate for a singular organizational arrangement for delivery of pharmacy services, when the professionals it regulates provide pharmacy services in a array of other organizational configurations? Is the public at greater risk in having prescriptions filled in a hospital because the hospital based pharmacist is employed?
4. Unlike other health regulating entities, there are no public members on the Board of Pharmacy. Why?

Recommendations:

1. Licensure fees approved by the legislature should be for the exclusive support of the regulatory functions of the Board of Pharmacy.
2. The composition of the Board of Pharmacy should include consumer representation and be geographical, and constituency balanced.