

**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.

The NDHA sees no public benefit rationale supporting limited ownership of commercial pharmacies in ND.

- There is no evidence or indication that the public is at greater risk receiving commercial pharmacy services in a non-pharmacist owned setting such as a hospital, than in a pharmacy owned setting, such as White Drug.
- We see no limitation upon the Board to regulate pharmacists, regardless of their earning status, or pharmacies, regardless of their ownership status.
- There is no evidence or indication that a non-pharmacist owned pharmacy cannot compete on service or price, or reduces consumer choice.
- Licensure by tele-pharmacy site of service fails to address the different delivery arrangements of clinical and medical services by integrated health care organizations.

#### Recommendations:

1. The statutory restrictions on pharmacy ownership be repealed
2. The licensure fee of pharmacists and pharmacies is sufficient to support the regulatory functions of the Board of Pharmacy.
3. The composition of the Board of Pharmacy includes geographical, constituency and consumer representation.
4. A separate license should not be required for each tele-pharmacy site.