

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 21, 2008
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

**TESTIMONY OF DANIEL M. TRAYNOR
NORTH DAKOTANS FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE**

Re: North Dakota Pharmacy Ownership Requirements

1 Chairman Berg and Members of the Committee:

2 I represent North Dakotans for Affordable Healthcare, which is a group of over 500
3 North Dakotans who want the benefit of cheaper prescription drug prices offered by major
4 retailers in every state but North Dakota.

5 North Dakotans for Affordable Healthcare formed after a group of individuals
6 contacted Wal-Mart and inquired WHY North Dakota does not have the same \$4.00
7 prescription drug program that is offered in 49 other states.

8 Our group is supported by donated time and money from a number of individuals.
9 And, yes, Wal-Mart and Walgreens have offered their assistance in providing information
10 and, in some instances, financial support for our efforts.

11 Our initial goal is to educate North Dakotans as to why they pay higher prescription
12 drug prices. North Dakota is the only state in the country that does not have access to
13 hundreds of \$4.00 prescription drugs offered by Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Target and other
14 retailers. And it is because of this law.

15 So far, we have opened a website (www.ndrx.org) and hired a part-time coordinator,
16 Trent Barkus, who lives in Jamestown. Our goal is to direct people to our website so that we
17 can provide consumer information and encourage people to sign up to support our cause.

1 Eventually, we would like to see this law change, but first we need to let North
2 Dakotans know that they are being treated unfairly because of a law that has its origins in the
3 1940s. If more people feel as strongly about this issue as we do, we will consider an effort
4 to change this law in the 2009 Legislative Assembly. We know that we are fighting an uphill
5 battle, with a group of roughly 150 pharmacists and their entrenched interests.

6 Mr. Chairman, in addition to this public information campaign, North Dakotans for
7 Affordable Healthcare would like to provide information to your committee and the
8 legislative assembly regarding the impact of this law in North Dakota. We have
9 commissioned Dr. David Flynn, who also works as Director of the Bureau of Business &
10 Economic Research at the University of North Dakota, to prepare an economic impact study
11 on the impact that a change in this law would have on consumers, pharmacists, the state
12 treasury and the economy of North Dakota.

13 I would be happy to address any questions you or the Committee may have, but I do
14 want to introduce Dr. Flynn and ask him to present his preliminary report to the Committee
15 at this time.

16 Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Contact Information and Disclosure:

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Representative Clients: North Dakotans for Affordable Healthcare
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.