

Testimony for Interim IBL Committee
HB 1299 Study
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Chairman Berg and members of the Interim IBL Committee, for the record I am Mark Hardy. I graduated from NDSU College of Pharmacy just over a year ago and was ecstatic to return to my roots of rural ND to serve my community. I currently reside in Neche, ND, where I have lived my whole life, and practice pharmacy at White Drug in Cavalier, ND. I appreciate the opportunity to briefly speak to you regarding the current practice of pharmacy in ND, my thoughts on the ownership law and the impact it has on citizens and pharmacist in our great state.

I want to start off by letting you know that ND is a leader in the pharmacy profession with our telepharmacy program which gives small communities access to rural pharmacies and hospitals. Also being #1 in Medication Therapy Management case completions and our new Diabetes program through ND PERS shows the dedication ND pharmacist have for the future of our patients and our profession. This dedication is why I chose to stay in North Dakota.

The ownership law is very important to me as a young pharmacist as it maintains the integrity of the profession within our state. I always know that the future of our profession in North Dakota will be directed by pharmacists and the well being of the public and not commercialism to drive the bottom line.

From my experience and education the current trend of pharmacy in large national retail chains is moving in the opposite direction of what is in the best interest of health care. These large corporations are understaffing pharmacies and making pharmacy about the volume of prescriptions that can be done instead of the quality and improvement of patient outcomes. They also are using prescriptions as a loss leader in order to get people in their stores. This in my opinion is deteriorating the profession.

The last topic I want to touch on is the retention of graduates of the NDSU College of Pharmacy. There has been a theory that due to the ownership law we don't retain our graduates. This is very untrue as a very comparable percentage stay when compared to other professions and the graduates that do leave do so for their own personal reasons. Not once have I ever heard of students moving to other states due to the inability to find a job in North Dakota.

I hope this testimony gives some insight into what this young pharmacist's opinions are about the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota and the importance of protecting the integrity of my profession in the future. I would be more than happy to answer any question you would have for me.