

August 20, 2008

North Dakota Legislative Council
Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
Bismarck, ND

This letter is in regards to the HB 1299 hearing. Representing the rural community of Northwood, we want to provide these very brief comments.

HB 1299 is a very significant piece of proposed legislation regarding pharmacy services in North Dakota. It is our recommendation that the legislation be studied with particular attention paid to what impact it might have on rural communities and rural health care providers.

Pharmacy services in North Dakota are a precious resource. It would be of utmost importance to understand how HB 1299 would affect the delivery of this service throughout the state.

Thank you,

Pete Antonson, CEO
Northwood Deaconess Health Center
President, North Dakota Rural Health Association

Sharon Ericson, CEO
Valley Community Health Centers of Northwood and Larimore

Wade Bilden, Pharmacist and Owner
Paul Bilden Pharmacy of Northwood