

**Written Testimony from the
North Dakota Board of Dietetic Practice
February 1, 2021
In Opposition of HB 1472**

Chair Weisz and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

The North Dakota Board of Dietetic Practice (NDBODP) is providing written testimony to oppose HB 1472. NDBODP oversees the licensure of dietitians and nutritionists in the practice of dietetics and provision of nutrition care services in North Dakota. The mission of the NDBODP is to protect the public from being harmed by unqualified persons providing nutrition care services, especially in relation to the treatment of a disease or medical condition.

The NDBODP opposes HB 1472 for the following reasons:

- 1) Complementary and alternative care is not defined in HB 1472. This bill potentially allows any unlicensed individual to provide nutrition care services for the treatment of a medical condition or disease. Practicing nutrition care services requires a license in North Dakota unless exempt from NDCC Chapter 43-44.
- 2) There are no training or education requirements to provide complementary and alternative care. The practice of treating medical conditions and disease does have the potential for harm, and should require the necessary training, education, and/or licensing to do so.
- 3) Some complementary and alternative therapies have been reported to cause serious problems or even deaths (Source: American Cancer Society). While scientific evidence now exists regarding the effectiveness and safety of some complementary health approaches, there remain many yet-to-be-answered questions about whether others are safe and effective. (Source: National Institute of Health: National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health; Sept. 2016). HB 1472 would not provide protections for the consumer from potentially harmful complementary and alternative therapies.

The NDBODP urges a “Do Not Pass” vote on HB 1472. It is the board’s assertion that complementary and alternative care be provided by healthcare practitioners that are licensed in the state of North Dakota as it falls within their scope of practice, unless there are specified exceptions within those practice acts for unlicensed individuals. This will provide much needed protections for North Dakota citizens from unqualified individuals that may potentially promote dangerous, costly, or scientifically unproven complementary and alternative care approaches.

Please contact the NDBODP should you have further questions. Thank you.

North Dakota Board of Dietetic Practice Board Members

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