



**House Human Services Committee
HB 1472
February 1, 2021**

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members. I am Courtney Koebele, executive director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

The North Dakota Medical Association opposes HB 1472, which provides for complementary or alternative care by unlicensed providers. Our concerns focus on patient safety and quality medical care.

Some complementary and alternative therapies have been reported to cause serious problems or even deaths. Delaying surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or other traditional treatment by using an alternative therapy can allow the cancer to grow and spread to other parts of the body. There is minimal scientific research on alternative care.

Alternative medicine is largely based on natural products and how they interact with and heal your body. Alternative medicines entail a longer treatment and healing time as they attempt to heal the problem. Much of alternative medicine isn't approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Physicians are specifically trained to recognize when a symptom may mask an underlying condition. NDMA is concerned that the treatment of a clearly visible symptom may mask an underlying condition – thereby putting the patient at heightened risk if the unlicensed provider falsely believes that the patient is “cured” because there is a temporary decrease in symptoms.

NDMA respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS on HB 1472. Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.