

MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ESTEEMED AND VERY HARD WORKING HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE:

MIKE DWYER, ND STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 47: SENATE BILL 2274

1. Full Disclosure: Daughter in Law, graduating after 4 years of intense medical education in the field of Naturopathic Medicine. I would like her and my son to return to ND, for her to begin her career as a Naturopathic Doctor, and my son to continue his career as a Middle School/High School math teacher and coach.
2. I also have constituents whose families have had a wonderful experience receiving care from Naturopathic Doctors.
3. First, I am sincerely hopeful the ND Medical Assn will find good reasons to support this bill. I believe there are just 8 Naturopathic Doctors in ND, and based on the testimony you will hear, they clearly have a role in providing quality medical services to ND's population. I have been blessed to have good health, and for my routine check-ups, my dermatologist, my family practice physician where I get my physicals, the doctor whom I have seen for prostate exams, and others, are consummate professionals. The very best. But so are Naturopathic Doctors from the standpoint of their education, and the focus of their practice.
4. Speaking of the focus of the practice of Naturopathic Doctors, I don't think there is any dispute that Americans could be healthier. Our diet, in particular, compared to other countries of the world, could be better. And we consume too many pharmaceutical remedies. Helping our citizens achieve healthier habits and lifestyles, and helping manage their chronic conditions so they can decrease the amount prescriptions they are on and managing the de-prescription during this process, are clearly some of the positive benefits of this area of medical practice.
5. Speaking of pharmaceuticals, because there has been misuse of prescriptions, specifically opioids, it is good that we are taking the time to qualify trained professionals.
6. Finally, we recently passed a bill which achieved a compromise between chiropractors and the medical profession. Doctors keep the physicals, and chiropractors get to practice tele-health. I hope we can open this small door relating to prescriptions so Naturopathic doctors can order prescriptions for which they have received full education and training.
7. In conclusion, I believe there is an important role in the medical arena for Naturopathic Medicine, and I sincerely hope SB 2274 can receive a Do Pass to provide benefits for patients. Thank you.