

January 31, 2021

Do Pass SB 2274 - Naturopathic Bill

Dear Committee,

If our state is to be progressive in nature, it ought to be so when it comes to an individual's rights and ability to select a healthcare provider. There being, each individual should be able to choose who they seek for medical attention and be able to receive needed prescriptions from that same provider instead of having to see another practitioner.

I have been a naturopathic patient since 2012. I am a resident of Fargo, ND and previously saw a naturopath in Moorhead, MN and now in Fargo, ND. I believe that this medical profession does far better than Western medicine at treating the whole patient – mental, physical and emotional – by getting to the root causes of ailments. The human body is a complex system. Naturopathic medicine considers this and turns to prescriptions last before suggesting behavior and nutritional modifications. I know because I've been there. It is jarring as a patient to have a great in depth conversation with my naturopath and be told that I need to leave their office to see another doctor (which might I add, increases medical bills) in order to get a prescription. I should be able to see one doctor for all of medical needs. That goes for all North Dakotans, just as it is in 16 other states where Naturopaths have the ability to write prescriptions.

Don't let North Dakota fall behind when it comes to medical treatments and prescriptions. We deserve the freedom to choose where to spend our healthcare dollars without unnecessary additional visits because of the current restriction in prescription writing privileges for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Nicole Steen-Dutton

West Fargo, ND