

Good Afternoon Chair Weisz and Committee Members,

I am Amanda Ihmels, RDN, CSO, LRD Oncology Dietitian in Bismarck and President of the North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics representing 250 dietitians in the state. I am here today to testify in opposition of HB 1472.

This bill allows the practice of complementary and alternative care but does not define a scope of practice or education requirements for individuals practicing “alternative care” in our state. This lack of clarity adds confusion regarding what alternative and complementary care is and opens the door to a large spectrum of care for these individuals to “practice”.

It also lacks a governing board to ensure that those practicing alternative care are not stepping outside the bounds of the short list of prohibited acts. I work with patients regularly who have received poor advice relating to their treatment regimens causing vitamin toxicities, severe unintentional weight loss, financial harm and in turn can reduce the likelihood of successfully completing treatment.

It is the North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics position that complementary and alternative medicine should be provided by a qualified, licensed healthcare professional. Therefore, we are recommending a DO NOT PASS of HB 1472.

Thank you for your time. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Amanda Ihmels, RDN, CSO, LRD
President of North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics