

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2274 – Relating to the Scope of Practice of a**  
**Naturopath**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Judy Lee, Chairwoman**  
February 1, 2021

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

I am Holly Johnson and I live in Minot, ND. I am providing written testimony in support of SB 2274 and going to share my personal experience as well as future hopes of receiving care under a Naturopathic Doctor.

Over 10 years ago, I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism. My primary care provider at the time, a Family Nurse Practitioner, prescribed me Levothyroxine/Synthroid. Several years later, after consulting with a friend and Naturopathic Doctor and to support her practice, I had her do my annual blood draw for thyroid hormone levels (TSH). It was only because of her I discovered the true root of my medical problems. I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder called Hashimoto's Disease. With this new information, I informed my primary care provider mentioned previously, who informed me that nothing in my prescriptions would change. I promptly left that provider to seek someone who would listen to my concerns and take the Hashimoto's Disease seriously, and established care with the person my Naturopathic Doctor friend recommended. I established care with this new provider, a Family Nurse Practitioner, who practices functional medicine. However, I believe that this FNP's scope of competence is limited in the expertise that I am seeking but cannot find a doctor who practices functional medicine.

In limiting the true scope of Naturopathic Doctors in this state, it essentially limits the options citizens like me have in their medical care. If a FNP can prescribe me my medication, with less education, but make less informed or less expert decisions for my care, the continued medical costs will rise, and not be spent as effectively as possible. North Dakotans, including myself, deserve the freedom to choose where to spend their healthcare dollars without unnecessary additional visits because of the current restriction in prescription writing privileges for Naturopathic Doctors.

In summary, please support SB 2274 with a DO PASS and allow Naturopathic Doctors to prescribe medication to citizens in North Dakota seeking their care. Should this legislation be passed into law, I will absolutely change my medical care to a Naturopathic Doctor. This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. If I can be of assistance during this time of deliberation, please contact me at [holly.johnson.bcba@outlook.com](mailto:holly.johnson.bcba@outlook.com).

Sincerely,

Holly Johnson, Citizen