

January 31, 2021

Re: SB2274 Scope of Practice for a Naturopath

To whom it may concern:

My name is Beth Sanford. I am writing this letter as a DO PASS for SB2274.

I am a 25Y Master's-prepared Registered Nurse, currently working as an Assistant Professor at Rasmussen University and a DNP student specializing in Public Health and Policy. I am a born and raised North Dakotan who has been under the care of a Naturopathic doctor for three years.

I see this bill as a great opportunity to attract more health care providers to the state, save consumers health care dollars and expand quality care options for our people.

As a practicing nurse in North Dakota, one of the issues I see in our state is lack of providers with prescriptive authority in the rural areas. In my hometown of Watford City, it is incredibly difficult to retain health care providers in our beautiful state-of-the-art facility. My own cousin, Rebekkah Sax, ND had to leave Watford City and her aging parents because of not being able to practice at full capacity as a Naturopathic Doctor. In Washington and Oregon, Naturopathic doctors are considered primary care providers. Our rural areas would benefit from this bill.

My personal experience with a Naturopathic doctor for my children and myself has been a very positive experience. My doctor is very thorough and always striving to get to the root of our concerns. The training she received is extensive and holistic as evidenced by her ability to diagnose and treat myself and my family with precision. With prescriptive authority, she could provide me more comprehensive care and it would save me money because I wouldn't have to make unnecessary trips to a doctor that I don't know and who doesn't know me to fill my thyroid prescription. I would like to have a choice where I spend my healthcare dollars.

In addition, the education of the Naturopathic doctor gives them a holistic, primary prevention focus that is unique which makes them a great addition to the interdisciplinary care team throughout the state.

With this bill, we can not only add to the quality care providers in the state but recruit more health care providers for the rural areas and allow North Dakotan natives to return home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Beth Sanford, MSN, RN, ACN, CLC
Fargo, ND