

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2019

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Green(2), Lickley, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 196: **Rep. Terry Gestrin**, District 8, presented **H 196**, legislation to license trained, educated naturopathic physicians (ND) and expand health care choices in Idaho, especially for rural districts.

Kris Ellis, on behalf of the Idaho Chapter, American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), further presented **H 196**. This legislation allows NDs to practice to the full extent of their education, care for patients in a timely manner, save patient costs, and give consumers another choice in the primary care spectrum. Exemptions address individuals already certified, licensed, engaged in natural product sales, and complimentary or alternative healing methods. Chiropractors will maintain their current privileges and will not be impacted by this legislation.

Ann Lawler, Executive Director, Idaho State Board of Medicine (BOM), was invited to answer questions. Osteopathic physicians (DO) are regulated by the BOM. The BOM website denotes any specialties. The ND board would oversee the scope of practice and assure NDs are operating within their scope of practice and providing the appropriate community standard of care. The BOM already manages similar groups, such as dietitians. Nutritionists, although they have a similar scope of practice to dietitians, are not within the BOM purview.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 196** were **Dr. Michael Karfeldt**, Owner, Karfeldt Center; **Miste Karfeldt**, Health Freedom Idaho; **Dr. Cindy Schmillen**, Naturopath, PhD, Post Physician for **Dr. Thomas Row**, Switzerland; **Dewain Lee**, Self; **Dr. Scott Nelson**, Chiropractor, Licensed ND; **Dr. Jason Parker**, Chiropractor, Licensed ND; **Dr. Terry Burke**, Chiropractic Physician, ND; **Jinny Peterson**, Self, Health Freedom Idaho; **Dr. Larry Nelson**, Chiropractor, Licensed Acupuncturist, Licensed ND; **James Kranz**, Licensed Acupuncturist

This legislation disregards the rights of other naturopathic practitioners. The previous inclusive board recognized experience and training, not specific schools. There are philosophical conflicts with oversight by the BOM. This is a government-endorsed monopoly. Insurance coverage for this small group would impact the rest of those practicing. There is no grandfathering or accreditation path. Public confusion when selecting care will occur.

Testifying in support of H 196 were **Andrea Goldberger**, Boise; **Emily Dickerson**, ND, Boise; **Dr. Diana Crumrine**, Fort Hills Family Medicine, Board Member, Idaho Chapter, AANP; **Dr. Matt Murray**, Pharmacist, Gentleman; **Dr. Ashley Hull**, ND; **Dr. Joan Haynes** Licensed in Oregon; **Dr. Sara Rodgers**, ND, Certified Acupuncturist; **Sean Dugan**, Licensed Acupuncturist, Patient; **Dr. Nicole Pierce**, ND, Licensed in Washington

Primary care providers are covered by insurance, but ND visits are out-of-pocket. Limitations make it difficult to build practices and care for patients in a timely manner. NDs are trained to be part of the medical system. Licensing will increase the statewide number of trained medical providers. Barriers require collaboration with a medical physician and/or licensure outside of Idaho. This group brings a new perspective and unique ideas to medicine. The BOM sub-board with a majority of NDs gives great representation and has proven effective in other states. Larger hospitals wanting to add an ND to their staff are hindered due to non-licensure. Licensing would mean Idaho residents would not have to travel out of state.

MOTION: **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **H 196** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

For the record, no one else indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Gibbs** withdrew his motion to send **H 196** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Wood** made a unanimous consent request to allow **Rep. Gibbs** to withdraw his motion to send **H 196** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, the request was granted.

Due to time constraints, **H 196** will be carried over to the meeting of Thursday, February 28, 2016, for further debate.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary