

# NEWS RELEASE: Oppose North Carolina Bill To Make Practicing Natural Medicine a Felony!

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The Medical Monopoly is at it once again. North Carolina State Senator *and Doctor* Eric Mansfield introduced a bill in that State's Senate to increase the penalty for in-state residents who practice medicine without a license from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 1 felony. This is, Dr. Mansfield says, just his effort to rationalize the law so that the penalties will be the same for in-state practitioners as they already are for out-of-state practitioners. That is *total nonsense*, he just wants to protect his medical monopoly.

Why is it that every time legislators or bureaucrats want to pass a law or enact a rule or regulation, they want to *increase* the penalties for its violation? If *Dr.* Mansfield wanted to "rationalize" the law so as to eliminate the discrepancy between in-state and out-of-state practitioner penalties, then he could have just as easily introduced a bill to *lower* the penalties on out-of-state practitioners to a Class 1 misdemeanor. Why go up? Why not go down? After all, there should be no penalty at all – even a misdemeanor penalty – unless someone has been actually harmed and such harm has been proven in a court of law.

## Where This Bill Stands Now

The North Carolina legislature was to have voted on this bill (SB 31 - Clarify Penalty for the Unauthorized Practice of Medicine (Mansfield, D – Cumberland)) already but has postponed the vote until today, April 6<sup>th</sup>. (See bill at <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/Senate/PDF/S31v2.pdf> or more clearly at <http://e-lobbyist.com/gaits/text/206890>) The bill already passed the State Senate on March 7<sup>th</sup>, with *every* Senator present voting for its passage. (See <http://e-lobbyist.com/gaits/rollcall/43442>) If it passes the State House, then State Governor Beverly Purdue will have it on her desk to sign or veto. And if the Governor signs the bill, then the new law would go into effect on December 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. (See bill's progress at <http://e-lobbyist.com/gaits/NC/S31>)

Of course the North Carolina Medical Society supports the bill, with its website claiming "licensed health care providers will not be adversely affected by this legislation and North Carolina patients will be protected." Right, had they been honest, the website would have instead read: "Licensed medical doctors' income will not be adversely affected by this legislation and we will be able to continue in peace subjecting millions of State residents to needless and expensive medical procedures that will put their lives at risk."

## **Action to Take Now**

There is still time to oppose this bill, even if you are not a resident of North Carolina, but especially if you are one. Contact both the North Carolina Governor and the State legislature to express your strong opposition to the passage of this bill. Be polite but definitely let your feelings be known. Tell them all that this bill should be withdrawn or defeated, and that a new bill should be introduced that reduces the penalty for out-of-state practitioners from a felony down to a misdemeanor.

Also, do not hesitate to politely express your opposition directly to Dr. Mansfield. All available contact information for these parties can be found below. Please forward this News Release on to everyone on your e-mail list right now so that they may take action as well. If enough people act, we could derail this bill. It has already been postponed due to strong opposition, let's now defeat it!

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