

# NEWS RELEASE: Update On North Carolina's SB 31 - Great News!

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**\*\*\*\* 4/15/2011- NC SB31 bill failed to make it through the Senate. The Senate sponsor had recommended they accept the House language but the Senate failed to accept the House language. \*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\* As of 4/19 and 4/20, it has gone to the House Conference Committee and the Senate Conference Committee. \*\*\***

At the last minute, North Carolina's State Senate "practicing medicine without a license" Bill 31 was rewritten and then amended in the House, effectively exempting alternative practitioners from legislation that would have increased the penalty for in-State residents who practice medicine without a license from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class 1 felony. This is wonderful news. It passed the House, as amended (the vote was 111 to 5).

This issue has brought health freedom to the forefront in the North Carolina legislature and several others Bills are currently before the Legislature concerning licensing:

- SB 467 Naturopathic Licensing Act
- HB 522 Midwifery Licensing Act (currently in the House Health & Human Services Committee)
- HB 847 Naturopathic Doctors Licensing Act

We are studying these bills to see if they actually promote or suppress health freedom. Through the many decades, we have found that simply because an alternative practitioners' bill provides for licensing of that practice, it does not automatically mean that it is worth supporting. Many of these bills must be opposed because they actually create a very-**restrictive** and costly environment for practitioners. The new boards are used as tools to suppress those who deviate from the conventional "party" line and to eliminate competition.

The Federation wants to thank everyone who contacted Governor Purdue and the State Representatives in opposition to SB 31, which in turn led to making this outcome a reality.