

**MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

**BY**

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## **TESTIMONY OPPOSING HB1717**

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Debra E Dallas, PhD, MifHI, DCNT

My name is Dr. Debra E Dallas, Iridologist, Nutrigenomist, and a Holistic Health & Nutrition Practitioner. I am here in opposition to HB1717, which could result in many lives turned upside down with the flick of a pen.

I would like to tell you a little about myself... I am 55 years old..... I am in perfect health. I take no medications or ever have.....I am a daughter of a self-taught, unlicensed Naturopath.

Following in my father's footsteps, I acquired a Bachelors Degree in Holistic Nutrition, Masters Degree in Natural Health, and a PhD in Natural Health and Healing. I also earned a Masters Certification in Nutrigenomics and Iridology. In 1998 I opened Nutrition, Herbs and Diet Nutritional Counseling in Pennsburg, in 2000 I opened a Health Food Store in Easton with the same name, and in 2007 I opened Dallas Wellness Center also in Easton. I am a well known and very popular figure in the Lehigh Valley and beyond

The demand for Naturopaths in Pennsylvania well exceeds the number of Naturopaths that were privileged enough to attend the small number of accepted Universities stated in the bill. I alone care for 1600 families. There has never been an incident in which I have harmed anyone in any way, only improved their health and enriched their lives. My reputation as a caring

Naturopath that listens attentively, gets to the root of the problem, and never gives up on anyone has brought families from all over the United States including Hawaii, Canada, Greece, Africa Mexico, Columbia and the Caribbean Islands. This field is growing in leaps and bounds bringing with it a tremendous tax revenue opportunity. I do not have to practice in Pennsylvania, I choose to.

Having earned a 4.0 grade average with each degree which I acquired, I am no less intelligent, if not more so, than my colleagues from the CNME approved school; with 15 years of professional experience and a lifetime of personal experience to show for it. I live my job, I love my Wellness Center, and I love my clients. People come to me when they have exhausted all medical possibilities. I am able to find where the weaknesses lie in their body through Iridology and shed light on this mystery patient for their doctor. Those doctors in the Lehigh Valley that have an open mind and truly care about their patients utilize my expertise instead of passing their patient on from one specialist to another.

The provision in the bill that states that all licensed Naturopaths must graduate from only the elite Universities is like passing a law that states that all teachers would have had to graduate from Harvard, Yale, or Princeton. How many of your children graduated from those universities? If they did not, should they be able to acquire a job in Pennsylvania? What a waste of great minds that would be! It would be a tragedy for those of us that have spent a lifetime living, dreaming, educating, preparing, and practicing Naturopathy to be forced out of our businesses and our lives and investments turned upside down by those that we trusted and voted into office, and the elite few. We hire our legislators to pass bills that are in our best interest, not to one by one pick away at our God given rights.

I understand that one should not complain of a situation without offering a possible solution. If HB1717 comes to pass, I propose a "Grandfathering" clause be put in place: one that would protect myself and the many other natural modality practitioners that have worked so hard to achieve their goals. We deserve this opportunity. I also feel that if a licensing law is set in place, that there should be separate licenses for the different modalities and varying levels of expertise, instead of clumping them together into one large profession, Naturopathy. For instance, I am knowledgeable, and only practice Iridology, Nutrition, Homeopathy and Supplementation. Testing and Licensing should be only in the modalities that the professional

knows and practices. Never have I ever had any desire to do any medical procedures such as endoscopy?blood testing or small in-office "procedures." Specialists in the medical field are not expected to know all the other areas of expertise in order to practice in their specific field. If licensing comes to pass, then all of the un-invasive therapies as water, light, food, herbs, touch, and energy should be unrestricted, as these are gifts from God, not manufactured and synthesized in a lab. How and why can anyone claim the right to restrict or control what is naturally ours?

By passing HB1717, 1600 families would no longer have the care they seek from Dallas Wellness Center. They are all expressing their anger and fear. This bill is designed to profit the elite few and in no way benefits the general public and our freedom of choice. I am not here to condemn the whole idea of some sort of control; I can see the necessity for that. . . .I am here to inform you that there are so many caring, dedicated, and educated people with p a t minds in Pennsylvania currently helping a tremendous number of Pennsylvania citizens. We Naturopaths had no conception of a bill as HB1717 ever coming to pass, as we toiled over our schooling...the reading, the tests, the papers, final exams and projects, research, thesis' and dissertations; staying up late and getting up before the kids to become what we have achieved. ...a **natural health care provider**. Nothing would sadden me more than experiencing Naturopathy fall victim to territorialism and competitiveness. It is a health field that is known for its caring, loving, un-invasive, and healing qualities and should never fall victim to political warfare. We should be working together as a whole. not trying to force others out of business for the benefit of a few.

As the famous naturopath from the early 1900's. Harry Hoxie, once stated:

*"Our fathers left us with a heritage of Freedom of Speech,*

*Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Choice.*

*If you have the right to choose your own church,*

*Your own minister or priest,*

**WHY NOT YOUR OWN DOCTOR?"**