

(H) L & C

HB 266

2/17/12

From: Barbara Hendricksen <hendrick@pobox.alaska.net>
Subject: draft testimony
Date: February 17, 2012 9:47:42 AM AKST
To: "Robert D. Martin" <rdmartin@alaska.net>

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

HB 266

and

I am here today to testify for (bill number). I am interested in this legislation as a citizen, as a very satisfied consumer of naturopathic services, and I have become increasingly intrigued by what problem it is that those opposed to this bill are seeking to solve. As a citizen, I am generally in favor of those rules, ~~set by government~~, that give me the most flexibility about where I can seek my health care. This bill does that. As a consumer, I am more than a little annoyed that if this change in prescribing authority is approved, then my naturopath's ability to treat me effectively is reduced. And most importantly, as I have followed this legislation through the session, I have yet to hear what is broken with a system that has apparently worked well for 15 years. So I would appreciate knowing are there complaints about naturopaths' over prescribing medication? Are there investigations pending into naturopaths' prescribing the wrong medication or other allegations of wrong doing? Because without those, I am baffled to find an explanation for these objections, except as a response to those who see themselves as in competition with holistic practitioners. And if that is all there is to it, then add my name to the list of people who no longer believe that government works for them. I thank you for listening and encourage your continued support of this legislation specifically, and of naturopathic medicine in general.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Labor & Commerce
committee name
committee on HB 266 dated 2/17/12
bill/subject.

Please Pass HB 266 -

These doctors have been well trained in I wonder why it is such a big deal if ND's can prescribe natural substances. They are trained to do so and have had the ability to do so for 18 years - with a great track record. ^{Naturopathic} Doctors in other states with the same training are given this ability - but our law is archaic.

I also wonder why MDs are given the power to weigh in on what NDs are able to prescribe? It seems like a conflict of interest.

Signed:

Jennifer Young RN PCN

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

19200 Kullberg Dr., Chugiak, AK 99567

Address

(907) 688-7053

Phone No.

February 17, 2012

To: House Labor & Commerce Committee

Reference: HB 266 – Naturopathy

Testimony of (in support): Wayne Aderhold

Our family uses ND's almost exclusively for our primary care and in a typical year we spend between \$8000 to \$9000 dollars for their services and the supplements prescribed for us, with more than 50% of this total being towards the supplements and "out of pocket" (not reimbursed by insurance).

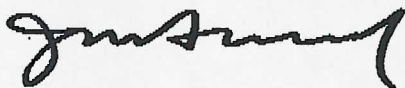
The supplements "prescribed" and paid for 100% by us are for the most part "for professional use" only and also unknown to the allopathic physicians. We do not consider these supplements to be "drugs" but they are certainly meant to be prescribed by a physician who is trained and understands their proper use (an ND).

I have been following the testimony on HB 266 and a few things are clear:

- You have not gotten a single complaint against ND's or naturopathic medicine from patient/consumers : they all express supreme trust in their ND's safe practices and encourage integrated care by ND's working with MD's
- Despite the flaws in the law (poor language & no ND Board) naturopathic medicine has proven itself inherently safe since 1986 on its own (with no MD or legislative oversight or interference)
- The MD's speaking against the bill are grasping at any linguistic straw or "what if" they can find to scare up non-existent problems
- the progressive MD's express willingness to work WITH ND's, treat them as equals, and state a desire toward improved overall care for US (the patients)

If you fail to pass this bill out of committee and into law you will be aiding the ASMA opposition in their covert efforts to restrict legitimate professional business in Alaska and in the process wrecking my family's primary healthcare system. Please be responsible to your State's needs: pass this bill now !

Sincerely,



Wayne Aderhold/ 353 Grubstake Ave./Homer, AK 99603



House Bill 266
House Labor & Commerce
2-17-12

Chair Olsen and Honorable members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Daniel Young. I have practiced naturopathic medicine for 20 years, 17 of those years have been in Eagle River. I am currently the Vice President of the Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians. I appreciate your time and effort to address our concerns.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 266.

To be licensed in Alaska, a naturopathic doctor must have attended a four-year, graduate-level naturopathic medical school that is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. The CNME, is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors. This body, which is regulated by the U.S. Department of Education, oversees accreditation of allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO), and naturopathic (ND) medical education. Naturopathic doctors are required to pass rigorous NPLEX professional board exams which include pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutic modules. Naturopathic doctors are educated in all of the same basic sciences as an medical doctor, but also study holistic and nontoxic approaches to therapy with a strong emphasis on disease prevention and optimizing wellness. In addition to a standard medical curriculum, the naturopathic physician is required to complete four years of training in clinical nutrition, homeopathic medicine, botanical medicine, psychology, and counseling.

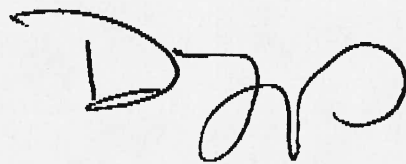
Just as medical or osteopathic doctors are considered to be the experts in their fields, so are naturopathic doctors experts in the practice of natural medicine. We have practiced in the great state of Alaska for 26 years. We have an impeccable safety record. We provide excellent patient care. Anyone who says otherwise is mistaken.

Pertinent to the issue before us, Naturopathic doctors study pharmacology (how drugs work in the body)and pharmacotherapeutics (how to use drugs therapeutically). Naturopathic doctors also study pharmacognosy (the study of medicines derived from natural sources) which more than prepares them to utilize natural substances in their practices. Further, the required pharmacology board exam ensures entry level competency. Although our current Alaskan law prohibits it, we ARE well trained to use natural substances whether they are prescription or not.

Our current statute, and the regulations that explain it, have had the due force of law. It is not a good statute but we have been able to function within its tenets. You have been well educated on the history of our statute and regulations by Dr. Jasper. Over recent years we have attempted to modernize our law to reflect the level of our education. Every time, our progress has been stonewalled. Opponents disseminate misinformation based on opinion, bias, ignorance and fear. The bill before you moves existing regulation into statute and preserves the current practice of naturopathic medicine in our state. It allows the thousands of patients that we serve to continue to access the healthcare that they choose. It protects naturopathic doctors from bureaucratic intrusion that threatens our practices and our businesses.

If this piece of legislation fails to pass, Alaskans will be hurt. Naturopathic doctors will no longer be able to provide the care that their patients have come to rely on. We are here to protect THEIR right to access the care that we provide. Please move House Bill 266 out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.



2/17/12

DANIEL J. YOUNG ND LAC
VICE PRESIDENT OF AKLANP
10928 EAGLE RIVER ROAD STE. 254
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577
907-694-5522



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

(H) L & C

committee name

committee on

HB 266

dated

2/17/12

bill/subject

A Special Note...

My name is MARY LOU AULWES I live
on Birchwood Loop - since
1972 and have had some
serious surgeries, during
which time I found out
that drugs & antibiotics
are not compatible with my
system. When I found a
Naturopathic Doctor, it was
a revelation! So PLEASE
pass Bill 266 so that I
can continue living, and
in comfort! Thank you!

Signed:

Mary Lou Aulwes

Testifier

Myself as a patient

Representing (Optional)

19983 Birchwood Loop - Chugiak

Address

688-2483

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Labor & Commerce
committee name

committee on HB 266 dated 2-17-12
bill/subject

I am in support of HB 266 moving Existing regulation language into Statute. This Bill will ensure the continuation of current scope of practice for ND's that has been in existence ~~for~~ since 1986.

IF this bill does NOT pass, Naturopathic medical scope of practice will shrink an already limited scope of practice compared to what ND'S ARE TRAINED TO provide.

Signed:

Jana Nalderien, ND

Testifier

President Alaska Assoc of Naturopathic Physicians

Representing (Optional)

915 W. Northern Lights Blvd Anchorage

Address

(907) 770-6700

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House LSC
 committee name
 committee on HB 266 dated 2/17/12
 bill/subject

I was here today to testify in strong support of HB 266.

I would still like to testify & have sent in emails. Hopefully I will have the opportunity at the next hearing.

Please protect my ^{current} scope of practice so that I can continue to provide the quality care that I do.

Thank you for your time
 Please also note that the other states that license Naturopathic doctors do allow prescriptive authority... This is not what we are asking for but I thought you should know

Signed:

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

Address

6437 Barclay Court Anchorage Ak 99504

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Labor & Commerce House
committee name
committee on 266 dated 2/17/12
bill/subject.

I am PRO Bill 266. I was here today to testify but the committee ran out of time. I appreciate the effort & time put in by our elected officials.

The naturopathic education we were provided enables us to safely use & prescribe naturally derived substances. We hope to be able to continue to provide our patients with the safest forms of treatments possible. Thank you

Signed:

R. TORREY SMITH ND AK nat license #
015

Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.

3542 W. 27th

99517

907 248 9764



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Labor + Commerce
committee name
committee on HB 266 dated 2/17/12
bill/subject.

I am here to testify for the
passage of HB 266.

I am a Naturopathic Doctor practicing here
for 15 years. I chose to live here despite
the limited scope. Every other state that
licenses N.D. this is the only one with
no prescriptive rights, so our education
certainly qualifies us to use medications
but we honor our law
and know our scope.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Thank you

Representing (Optional)

Address

907 632 5632

Phone No.