



Center for Natural Medicine, Inc.

March 23, 2010

Representative Wes Keller
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

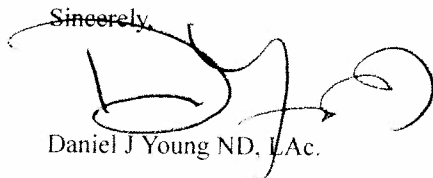
Representative Keller,

I understand that House Bill 282, introduced by Representative Cathy Munoz, is due to be scheduled for hearing by the House Committee for Health and Social Services. This bill, as you know, is a culmination of years of work by the naturopathic doctors who practice here in Alaska. I know that you understand my passion for the medicine that I've practiced now for 18 years. I think that you understand my frustration over the limitations by the antiquated Alaskan statute that prevents us from practicing the way we have been trained. I have always felt that you were an advocate of advancing the cause of naturopathic medicine in Alaska and have been appreciative of your support.

Representative Munoz's bill is a good one. It would allow for the formation of a naturopathic medical board; allow naturopathic doctors to participate in Denali Kid Care; allow naturopathic doctors to provide work and school physicals; institute a continuing education requirement; allow for minor surgery and the prescription of those medications that we are trained to use. Further, it would help alleviate the primary provider shortage here in Alaska. I don't think that any of these issues are new to you. I know that we have discussed them in the past. Our education is exceptional. Our safety record is unmatched. We get federal funding at our schools. We've had expert witnesses – 2 medical school presidents with exceptional credentials testify to the legislature on our behalf. This bill would serve Alaskans who not only seek out our services, but have a constitutional right to access what we provide.

I wanted to keep this letter short. I suspect that you know the obstacles that we have faced as we've tried to update this statute. I remember clearly how you and Senator Dyson predicted what they would be when we set out on this journey almost 8 years ago. Our interest has never been a selfish one, but rather one that promotes the greater good of Alaskans. Naturopathic doctors are well trained and provide excellent care for their patients. I would hope that the opposition, as well funded as they are, not be able to define us and limit our ability to provide care to our fellow Alaskans. I respectfully ask that you use your influence as co-chair of the HSS committee to schedule and aid in the passage of House Bill 282.

Sincerely,



Daniel J Young ND, LAc.

"vis medicatrix naturae"

Daniel J. Young ND, LAc. – Naturopathic Doctor & Licensed Acupuncturist

Phone (907) 694-5522 • Fax (907) 694-5524 • 10928 Eagle River Road, Suite 254 • Eagle River, AK 99577