

February 17, 2011

Rep. Cathy Munoz
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ref: **HB 122 / Alaska Naturopathic Medical Board**

Dear Representative Munoz,

Thank you for sponsoring **HB 122**. I fully support all aspects of this bill.

Proper governance of any "trade" is critical to its function. The establishment of the **Alaska Naturopathic Medical Board** should have accompanied the legislation that enabled the licensing of ND's back in 1986. The saying "better late than never" truly applies.

As a regular consumer of naturopathic medical services, I urge you to work with your fellow legislators this session and push this bill through to signing into law. The State of Alaska deserves to have a fully functional system of naturopathic medicine with maximum capability in these times of growing healthcare needs.

You can count on my support as in past related bills and feel free to call on me for input from the aspect of a well-informed consumer. My primary care for over 15 years has been provided by naturopathic physicians in concert with the associated professionals they have referred me to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Aderhold", written in a cursive style.

Wayne Aderhold
353 Grubstake Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Hello Representative Kathy Munoz,

I am writing to let you know that I support House Bill 122. My sister was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2008. Bridget did a year of chemo and after a year of chemo her cancer spread to her brain. Bridget did a 15 day radiation treatment to her brain. Bridget lost weight due to chemo and radiation. She was 86lbs. when the doctors would not do anymore conventional cancer treatment and gave her 2 years approximately with us. I had to do fundraisers while caring for my sick sister to make money to take her to the Issels Medical Cancer Center in Santa Barbara, Ca. as Medicaid would not pay for this immune system building therapy for Bridget (naturopathic doctors). Since Bridget has returned from Issels Medical Cancer Center her cancer markers became better, we can not see anymore cancer in her brain and she has gained over 10 lbs. I take Bridget to Dr. Emily Kane 1 time a month for I.V. vitamin therapy and would take her at least 2 times a month however she can not afford it. Bridget has had to skip a month or 2 this year due to not enough funds. It is very important to Bridget's life extension that she get as much nutrition in her cells everyday (i.v. vitamin therapy, nutritional supplements, organic foods, etc.) and to pass house bill 122 would be at least one less burden to worry about. Thank-you from the depths of my being for passing house bill 122. If you need to reach me you can call 1-907-789-2342 or write me at 8170 Threadneedle St. Juneau, Ak. 99801

Thank-you Brenda Petaja

I am testifying as a consumer of health care. For the last 25 years, the primary health care providers for my family have been naturopathic doctors. We have been successfully treated for numerous ailments, including sinus infections, earaches, urinary tract infections, and insomnia. I have worked with a number of naturopaths and have found them all to be extremely competent and highly professional.

As far as I am concerned, this legislation should be completely non-controversial. Every other state on the West Coast has a Naturopathic Board. Naturopaths are highly trained health care providers whose focus is on wellness, education and prevention. It seems to me that this is exactly the kind of health care that we need more of.

I have heard that some members of the medical community are concerned that ND's might practice outside of their area of competence. I think this is a red herring. There is no evidence this has been a problem in other states. And I am not aware that it has been a problem in Alaska either.

I can tell you from my own experience that the NDs I have worked with are well aware of their limitations, and have referred me to other providers when that was appropriate.

In fact, a few years ago, I came back from a trip to Africa with a bad case of what I thought was traveler's diarrhea. I had been staying in a place with notoriously bad water and had gotten the runs from drinking the water earlier in my trip.

After several days, I wasn't getting any better and was experiencing alternating fever and chills. It was a naturopathic doctor, Emily Kane, who recognized that I might have something more serious. So she came over to my house during her lunch hour and drew my blood and sent it away to be tested for malaria. It came back positive the next day.

I went to Bartlett hospital and ultimately ended up at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle to be treated for a nasty case of cerebral malaria. It was because of Dr. Kane's alert intervention that I was diagnosed with a life threatening condition in time to be successfully treated.

Two things about this. Number one, it illustrates the highly personalized form of medical care that is typical of the naturopathic profession. How many doctors do you know who make house calls? Yet Dr. Kane is not the first naturopath to make a house call at my house.

Number two, it is an example of a naturopath making a correct diagnosis and referring a patient to appropriate care. Dr. Kane did not suggest that I treat my cerebral malaria with colloidal silver or wormwood. She urged me to go to the hospital and get treated. And when it turned out that Bartlett hospital did not have the appropriate drugs or expertise to treat my condition, I was transferred to the University of Washington, where I had the good fortune to be treated by one of the leading malaria experts in North America.

ND's clearly have a role to play in our health care system. They are primary care providers who can treat many if not most of the common conditions that people go to a doctor for. The care they provide is personalized, cost effective, and prevention oriented.

Perhaps most important, it is focused on individuals taking responsibility for their own wellness. I firmly believe that we will never get medical costs under control until we acknowledge that all of us need to start taking better care of ourselves. Helping people do this is one thing NDs do best.

I urge you to support this legislation.

David Ottoson
212 West Ninth Street
Juneau, AK 99801