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Testimony to House L&C Committee  
February 28, 2011  
Re: HB 122

- I am 61 yrs old, resident of AK since '74 and have utilized naturopathic physicians as my primary care providers since approximately 1993. I view HB 122 as a benefit to consumers because it will formalize the basic structure of naturopathic medicine in Alaska.
- There are two main schools of medical thought in primary care: allopathic and naturopathic. Both school have their time & place in the healthcare system and neither "trade" should be restricted by or subservient to the other. The State Medical Board has already correctly rejected the idea of including naturopathic doctors since the Standards of Care of the two disciplines vary substantially. Consumers have a responsibility to become educated on the differences since the requirements for patient involvement and expectations for fast results also vary.
- It is clear that governance for ND's should have been established concurrently with professional in 1986, and equally clear that proper governance requires a Board composed predominantly of peers, just like any other profession in AK.
- HB 122 will fill this huge and unacceptable gap by establishing a (self-funding) Board. All other governance questions (including Standards of Care) can then be correctly addressed by the Board. Currently there is no administrative entity that I know of (other than the legislature or the courts) to govern the practice of this profession. This situation is not right for ND's or their patients and relies on undetermined processes or just plain luck. It is a tribute to the inherent safety of naturopathic medicine and the ND's own individual training and ethics that we've gone this long in Alaska without a significant problem.
- Please move HB 122 into law this session so that the establishment of naturopathic medicine at the legislative level in Alaska is completed

Respectfully,

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