

# Primary Care Associates

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I have been a Family Practice Physician in Alaska since 1977. I consider it a privilege to care for my patients and community. I have significant concerns about any possibility of granting surgical or prescriptive authority to naturopaths. Throughout the years, there have been many instances which support that concern. I would like to share just one of those stories.

A physician was called by a woman who was not his patient. She asked him to order a pathology specimen to be examined at the hospital. She had passed some tissue vaginally and wanted it to be examined. Naturally, he referred her to her own physician or to one of the many good specialists in the community. She declined and said that her naturopath was her doctor and she was not interested in changing. Her naturopath could not order the test. The physician knew that time was critical for a specimen to be evaluated and so acting as a Good Samaritan he agreed to order the test.

The test came back with the diagnosis of endometrial cancer. To pass such tissue is usually a sign of late stage cancer. In later stages, treatment is less likely to be effective. He was understandably concerned to give this diagnosis over the phone. He again referred her to several gynecologists and oncologists. He was shocked by her reply.

The lady was actually pleased to get this result. She said that it was proof that the treatment her naturopath was giving her for the cancer was working because her body was expelling the cancer cells.

This is one of the many stories that sadden and frighten me. I am certain that you share my concern for the health of our fellow Alaskans. Please consider carefully any action that would establish a separate licensing board or give prescriptive and surgical authority to naturopaths.

I encourage you to vote no on HB122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Foland".

Mary Ann Foland M.D.