



Alaska Pharmacists Association

March 9, 2011

Re: HB 122

The Alaska Pharmacists Association represents Alaska Pharmacists, technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. Alaska Pharmacists Association members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, managed, care organizations, hospice settings, and the military.

The Alaska Pharmacists Association (AkPhA) would support the establishment of an Alaska Naturopathic Board with the purpose of regulation of the practice of the Naturopathic Doctors in the State of Alaska. Currently Alaska pharmacists are filling prescriptions written by Naturopaths who have prescription endorsements in other states. We appreciate the inclusion of pharmacists in the development of the Naturopathic Board.

AkPhA appreciates the rigorous education and training many Naturopath Doctors have completed. We also understand that all Naturopath Doctors do not complete the same level or quality of training. We are pleased to see that HB 122 would develop standards for Naturopathic practitioners within the State of Alaska, including post graduate residency training and mandatory continuing education. AkPhA does not view naturopaths as an alternative to allopathic health care providers, but an addition to traditional practice. Naturopathic medicine is not meant as a replacement in areas where health care providers are of short supply or where there are not physicians accepting Medicare patients.

Respectfully,

Barry Christensen, RPh

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
Alaska Pharmacists Association

E-mail: akphrmcy@alaska.net