

I am expressing my support of naturopaths in the State of Alaska having a full scope of practice and prescribing rights.

I am grateful that we are able to have a choice in our health care providers.

I live in Homer, AK and value the care that is available here and wish to see it remain and improve with HB91.

Best regards

Joyce Turkington

Dear Honorable Representatives of Labor & Commerce,

I support HB 91 because it will enable me to better serve my patients by allowing me to use the therapeutic modalities that I am well trained in.

In health,

Dr. Dan

Center for Natural Medicine, Inc.

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Geddes and my family and I have been seeing Dr. Young at the Center for Natural Medicine in Eagle River for over 10 years. I support a full scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Alaska.

During that time Dr. Young has helped me with a variety of health-related issues—from minor illnesses to digestive disease that severely impacted my quality of life. It's within my struggle with digestive disease that I hope you will see how valuable it is that Alaskans have the choice to access the knowledge, skills, and competencies of a naturopathic doctor.

I struggled for years with stabbing pains in my gut that would stop me dead in my tracks several times a day. I saw various healthcare professionals prior to seeing Doctor Young for this ailment—Advanced Nurse Practitioners, MDs, and GI specialists; providers both in the Valley and in Anchorage. I underwent testing and expensive scoping procedures and ate lots of prescriptions medicine every day that didn't simply didn't help. I had no one left to turn to in the state of Alaska when I brought this problem to Dr. Young.

Dr. Young sat down with me and we discussed my history and symptoms and we spoke for about 2 hours (3 to 4 times as long as my previous consults with other health professionals, including specialists). Dr. Young recommended a course of treatment that ultimately cured all my digestive symptoms within a few months.

I am firmly confident in the knowledge, training, and skills of Dr. Young and his staff and based on my experience, think it completely reasonable that naturopathic doctors be allowed to perform the procedures included in the bill. In conclusion, I would just like to impress upon the committee how important having the choice to see a naturopathic doctor was to finding a resolution with my health condition and improving the quality of my life. Thank you.

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Best Regards,

Steve Geddes

I strongly support HB 91. The service and care from naturopath physicians is exceptional and I support a full scope of practice for them here in Alaska.

As an Anchorage resident for over 40 years, naturopathic physicians have provided care for all of three of my children's births and my care from childbearing years to present. They have always worked collaboratively with other medical practitioners by referring when a specialty is needed.

The holistic collaborative approach has created healthy support for my entire family including my husband's successful remission of cancer.

Please pass this bill to improve health care services in Alaska.

Thank you,

Anne Dawson

Dear Representatives,

I support HB 91. Naturopaths are stripped of their authority in this state by not being able to write prescriptions. I was horrified to learn this when I first moved back to Alaska in 2008. In order for a naturopath to function, they must use a PA to prescribe for them, thereby charging patients TWICE for care. Both the Naturopaths and their patients are impacted by this unfair practice. In Washington state, where I come from, many people use N.D.s as their primary doctors. I would hope that Alaska can learn from Washington.

All the best,

Nicoli Bailey

Dear Sir,

My name is Morris Kamelgarn and I am writing in support of the above bill to allow naturapathic to practice in Alaska. I am not a resident, but when I was living in Juneau from 2010-11, I saw a naturapathic doctor and she was very helpful.

Morris Kamelgarn

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB91 because Alaska' naturopathic doctors are capable, educated, and willing to help those in need in our community. Allowing them to perform minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraceptive placement would be well within their skill set and a benefit to Alaskans. Personally I have benefited tremendously from the thoughtful and thorough care of an ND. Thank you for your consideration,

Brittany Robbins, LAc, DACM

I fully support HB 91, I prefer to see naturopathic doctors or PA. I have witnessed with my husband's decline of health and service by both the U.S. Army hospitals and the VA all the drugs and medications that have been to prescribed him. These medications contain chemicals and have side effects which are then resolved with the prescription of more chemical medications. It is a vicious cycle. Once I spoke with the doctor at the VA and asked why can't he take this natural medication, he said sure. Believe me my husband was a different person. Allowing the naturopathic doctors to prescribe natural medications which are usually plant based without the chemicals is a right they must be given. Allowing them to complete simple procedures in their office should be authorized as well. They have taken almost if not the same or more training as a regular doctor and should be afforded the same rights.

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Robin (Rodriguez) Walthour

Honorable Commerce Committee Members:

Please support HB91 which provides Naturopaths full prescribing rights.

My family has been assisted greatly by access to naturopathic medicine because they repeatedly provided guidance on nutritional and supplements that have accomplished health goals for us that traditional providers have been unable to do.

Thank you
Jeane Breinig
Anchorage, AK

Good afternoon,

I support HB91 because I believe that naturopaths have played an important role in my family's health. This would include allowing us natural ways to get over sickness, much faster than the pharmaceutical alternatives. Also, I have learned a lot about what I am intolerant to as far as food is concerned.

Naturopaths are an important tool for the human body!!

Thank you,

Halie Rady
Fairbanks Alaska

I support HB91 because my family uses a Naturopath as our first line of health care.

With an extended scope of practice, we would definitely use our practitioner more.

Currently, we use our naturopathic doctor for analyzing detailed clinical lab work, and all conditions that osteopaths, chiropractors, physical therapists, and massage therapists would treat. Finally, our naturopath provides all of our nutritional / dietary guidance.

My family and I live in Fairbanks Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this bill.

Charles Allen
MAJ, US Army (retired)

I fully support a full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska.

Linda Baker
10738 Horizon Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

I am a patient of Megan Danz, ND in Palmer; she is the only doctor I have seen for several years. I support HB 91 so that she and other naturopaths can prescribe antibiotics or asthma inhalers or other medical interventions for which they are qualified.

For the many of us that have a naturopath as a primary care doctor, it would be much more comfortable, economic, and sensible to have them be able to provide these services, instead of requiring us to seek a second doctor, particularly when what we need is something very temporary.

Thank you for your consideration of the bill.

*Kendra Zamzow
Chickaloon, AK*

Dear Alaska State Representatives,

I support HB91. My family has relied on naturopathic doctors in Alaska (both Palmer and Anchorage) throughout the 40 years I have lived here. My naturopathic doctor has been able to diagnose and treat us holistically (i.e. discovering the cause for illness or injury, rather than focusing only on the problematic symptoms), especially when dealing with complex and less obvious conditions. The outcomes have been exceptionally successful. I fully endorse naturopathic doctors being allowed to practice using the full scope of their training.

Sarah Bean

Arctic Organics

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB91 because it would give our naturopaths a full scope of practice and allow them to provide minor in-office procedures such as stitches, shots, contraception placement, including prescribing rights, along with any and all other services they have been educated and trained to do.

Respectfully,

Melanie Meyer
Interior Designs, LLC

Hello,

I am writing this because I support HB91. I believe naturopaths are very important in the scope of health practices, & should be given the same availability to cure patients as any other doctor. Thank you

Sincerely,
Morgan H

I just wanted to voice my support for HB91 in granting full scope of practice to naturopaths in Alaska. My naturopath has been a critical part of my family's health for several years and my wife and I would love to see them able to prescribe medications and perform simple medical procedures as their education and training allows. Please allow my naturopath to take care of me and my family more fully!

Thank you,
Sy Cloud

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

Thank you for your service to the people of Alaska. I appreciate that HB 91 has been introduced and I urge you to support this bill, allowing Alaskan naturopaths the full scope of practice for which they have been trained.

Our family began visiting naturopathic doctors in Juneau in the 1990s when our children were young and, like many Southeast Alaskans, experienced multiple ear infections. We chose a naturopathic doctor because we wanted to explore treatments besides antibiotics; we'd learned repeated antibiotic treatment could result in resistance to certain medications. Naturopathic care was a good choice for us because we were able to avert several infections without these medications. Occasionally, we needed the "big guns" and our naturopath made the call to prescribe antibiotics. (At that time, naturopaths could prescribe.) It was very helpful that he was able to do so immediately, allowing our children to be treated right away.

Two decades later, when our children were off on their own, my husband and I needed treatment for our own unique conditions. We turned to naturopathic medicine because neither of us was experiencing improvement via traditional medicine. Our naturopath assisted us in setting up wellness-promoting lifestyle practices involving diet and exercise for my husband's Parkinson's Disease, and the use of prolotherapy to ease pain and help heal my arthritic hip. As a result of this doctor's assistance, my husband and two friends started the first Alaskan franchise of Rock Steady Boxing, a research-based therapy for Parkinson's Disease. The program now provides consistent relief from the symptoms of Parkinson's for 12-15 Juneau residents with Parkinson's Disease. In addition, I was able to postpone a total hip replacement for several years, partially due to prolotherapy. Unfortunately, our naturopath was unable to prescribe certain newly-approved treatments due to legislatively-imposed limitations on naturopathic practice.

The naturopaths who have assisted us over the years are skilled practitioners who attend frequent trainings to improve and update their skills. They have unique skill sets that complement, rather than displace, those of traditional doctors. Please recognize their proactive contributions to Alaskans' health by passing HB 91, restoring to these trained professionals the full scope medical of practice for which they are qualified.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey
Retired Teacher

Hello, I live in Eagle River and am emailing to express my view and support for SB 91 to allow the full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska. I feel they should be granted prescribing rights and the right to help patients with minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraception placement. My family has received great care from naturopaths, who have augmented their practices by also having us see an in-house nurse practitioner for prescriptions and minor procedures. Seeing one provider rather than two would consolidate our care.

Thank you,

Carla SlatonBarker

Dear Chairpersons Wool and LeDoux and fellow Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 91 which establishes a clear scope of practice for NDs that reflects their education, training, and efficacy for patient healing. I have lived in Fairbanks for over 15 years and find healthcare options here to be extremely limited. Two years ago I got incredibly ill, lost over 40 lbs and had debilitating pain due to reflux. I went to numerous internal medicine MDs in town, I even went to Mayo Clinic, and found no relief or answers for over a year. It was my naturopath who listened to me, tested me from an integrative approach and who eventually diagnosed me with an autoimmune disease that was the root cause of my illness. However, she could not work on prescribing hormones and other non controlled drugs, and I was forced to go back and forth between an MD and her making my healing longer and much more expensive. My naturopath is now my primary care physician, and as such should be able to perform the functions outlined in this bill. For a state with limited health providers, this bill is a necessity and will save Alaskans not just money but also pain and suffering.

Thank you for your time and your service to Alaska,

Amy Gallaway

Hello, I just wanted to send a letter letting you know I am in support of HB91! Natural path doctors have been huge for me in Alaska, especially recently, when every other doctor has not been able to help with some debilitating symptoms I was having I went to a natural path doctor and she was able to make my symptoms go away really quick through herbs and acupuncture.

In addition to that huge help, I also see my practitioner for everything, it's very frustrating that she cannot always prescribe something like an antibiotic if it's really necessary, she can diagnose but then I have to go spend more money and time for someone else to prescribe. It would be so much better if they could do that.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Danae Bee

I am in complete support for naturopaths in Alaska to have a full scope of practice. My Naturopath in Juneau Alaska has helped me Medically more than any other Other Doctor in Juneau . It is wonderful to have such a knowledgeable professional doctor that really cares about their patients and is willing to spend quality timeworn them.

Sincerely, Kayla Wyatt

I am a Fairbanks resident who benefits greatly from naturopathic medicine. I support HB91 because it is an efficient means for improving wellness and healthcare access for Alaskans. I am writing to ask members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee to recognize the full scope of training Naturopathic Doctors receive by granting them prescribing rights and allowing them to help patients with minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraception placement.

Thank you!

Jennifer Reed

Hello, I support House bill 91. Naturpathic medicine is of great value to us all as we must learn more about these and more natural therapies. EDTA Chelation Therapy saved me from conventional surgery because of an 85% clogged artery and I will always be grateful. Also Ozone and UVBI are both wonderful treatments for cancer as well as IV Vit. C and others. Thanks, G. Gore, cancer survivor because of these types of treatments. I am now on my 3rd cancer book.

My primary care provider for the past 20 years is a naturopath and I believe my care would be enhanced by allowing her to practice using the full scope of her training. I support HB91 allowing the full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska. Joyce Sarles

I would like to ask you to please support this bill. I use naturopaths and would really like this to go thru.
Thank you Carol Dunlap Austin

I support HB91, the bill ensuring Alaska's naturopaths have a full scope of practice, including prescribing rights.

I have always visited naturopathic doctors growing up. I believe they are highly educated professionals that need prescribing rights to fully help their patients.

I'd love to be able to visit one doctor to get all my needs met here in Fairbanks.

Thanks,
Katie

I support HB91 because i would like to have my ND be able to prescribe the medicine i need and be able to help with minor in office procedures. it doesn't make sense (practically or financially) to have to see a different doctor to have those items taken care of. i prefer to see a ND and believe their care is excellent and would like to not have to see multiple doctors when my ND could take care of my needs.

i live in wasilla.

thank you.

Tanya scott

I support HB91 because as the brother and a patient of a NP Doctor I know that they have to go thru all the training of a traditional Doctor plus more. Therefore I believe it is wrong to limit the kinds of help they are allowed to provide patients. Charles Peep

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support for HB91, which would give my naturopathic physician the opportunity to better support my family's health by permitting him to practice within the scope of his education, training, and skill. I support HB91 because I have seen first hand the benefit that naturopathic physicians can affect on the health of my family and community. As an Alaskan, I feel strongly that we should have the right to choose our path to seeking safely administered health care and wellness. Naturopathic physicians are highly educated, accredited, and regulated health care providers, and as such Alaskans should be permitted access to the full scope of their quality care.

Thank you for your time and consideration in representing the health of my family and community.

Sincerely,
Alexis Sayer
Chugiak, Alaska

I want to thank Representative Jennifer Johnston for introducing HB91. As a long time patient of Dr. Torrey Smith, I wholeheartedly support this effort and hope the **House** moves this bill forward quickly.

Beverly Tallman
Wasilla, Alaska

I completely support HB91 because I think naturopathic medicine is essential to providing healthcare to our citizens by treating acute and chronic conditions successfully, as well as preventative medicine to ensure future health.

Please do what you can to make sure this bill goes through.

Many thanks,

Paula Sumner
Big Lake, AK

Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee.

I support a full scope of practice for Naturopaths in Alaska. These people are an extremely positive resource for myself and my wife. The Naturopaths provide an important frontline support that otherwise would not be available to us.

Sincerely,

Larry and Barbara LaGrone

Hi,

I am a combat veteran from Iraq in 2006. I have a really tough, chronic back pain from trauma during that tour. I have only been seeing Dr. Young for acupuncture for about 4 months, but his treatment has made a positive and measureable difference in pain management as well as mobility. I just wanted to share that in your considerations of this bill. Many thanks

Kathy

Katherine R. Campbell