

April 3, 2021

To: Senate – HSS Committee Ref: **SB-38** / Naturopaths/ **IN SUPPORT**

Chair Wilson, and Senators Hughes, Costello, Rheinbold and Begich:

I have been supporting efforts to establish the Naturopathic Physician’s regulatory status (including a fitting definition of “Scope of Practice”) since at least 2003. For reference and the record, I attach a copy of my testimony from 2004 to the House HSS Committee.

Existing statutes and regulations for Naturopaths (written for sound reasons and with good intentions, if somewhat hurried, as I understand it) have been in need of upgrade for a long time.

The current bill (SB-38) appears well-written and covers all legitimate issues that have been brought up over the years since 2004 that I can recall.

A few details of the bill that I feel are worth noting, and key to establishing this profession on the foundation it deserves in Alaska are:

- Appropriate prescriptive rights (Rx), including qualification to receive them
- Establishment of a Naturopathic Advisory Board (including 2 “public members”)
- Establishment of CME requirements

I appreciate Senator Kawasaki’s sponsorship of this bill, and hope your committee will quickly pass it out of committee, and on toward enactment by the Legislature this session. It is something you can accomplish in bi-partisan fashion with a “libertarian” spirit.

Supportive consumers like me have been patiently waiting so we might direct more of our healthcare dollars “in state” (Alaska) instead of being forced to seek similar care “outside” only because some other states allow NDs to safely practice to the full extent of their training.

I have recently served a term on comparable medical regulatory Board here as the “public” member, and intend to submit my name for consideration on this Advisory Board in similar capacity.

All of the issues of this Bill have been worked over thoroughly over the years, and remarkably the Naturopaths (and their patient patients) have held on faithfully for the Legislature to act. Let’s move this into law quickly and put Alaska in the “healthcare position” it deserves to be for its citizens.

Sincerely, 

Wayne Aderhold
Homer, AK

February 24, 2004

(H)HES hearing @ 3pm

Ref: **SB 42 – Naturopathic Medicine Task Force**

To: Reps. Wilson (Chair), Seaton (Vice-Chair), Anderson, Kohring, McGuire, Cissna, and Gardner

Please pass this bill, and extend the life of the Naturopathic Task Force for the benefit of your constituents. The naturopaths have recently submitted a very reasonable proposal for dealing with prescriptive rights, and Senator Seekins is facilitating careful and complete examination of all pertinent issues. I expect this process to continue until all the pertinent facts are on the table.

I, and a growing number of Alaskans, rely on naturopathic physicians for a large, and increasing portion of their healthcare, because of they clearly adhere to the foundation of medicine: “First, do no harm”. So there is a lot at stake for **Alaskan consumers** on the outcome of this task force, and resulting legislation.

I can document a number of incidences over the past few years where the provisions of the proposed changes in “privileges” for naturopathic physicians would have benefited me directly, both from a healthcare and an economic standpoint. Please do not loose sight of the fact that this is largely a consumer issue, in spite of the rhetoric you may hear from opponents of this **progressive** bill.

Sincerely,

Wayne Aderhold

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603
[REDACTED]