



February 17, 2026

The Honorable Forrest Dunbar, Chair  
Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Support for SB193 Naturopathic Doctor Prescribing Authority**

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC), the international professional association representing accredited naturopathic medical programs in the United States and Canada, we strongly urge your support for SB193. This legislation modernizes the scope of practice for NDs in Alaska that is aligned with their rigorous education and training and commensurate with the broad scope of naturopathic medical practice.

**Naturopathic Education: Rigorous & Comprehensive**

NDs are educated and trained as primary care doctors, with a curriculum designed to diagnose and treat illness comprehensively. ND education occurs in four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral-level programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME)—the only accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for naturopathic medical programs. NDs complete 4,100 hours of training in biomedical and clinical sciences, including extensive coursework in pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. Further, graduates meet expectations for clinical competency prior to completing psychometrically valid licensing examinations that account for safe entry into the practice of naturopathic medicine.

**Pharmacology Education & Patient Safety**

NDs receive extensive education in the mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions of pharmaceuticals, providing a strong foundation for responsible prescribing and administration of IV and intramuscular (IM) therapies. Their training uniquely prepares them to:

- Identify and mitigate drug-drug interactions
- Assess drug-herb and drug-nutrient interactions—a critical skill given the widespread

- use of dietary supplements alongside prescription medications
- Ensure patient safety by integrating pharmacological and natural treatment approaches

### **Proven Safety in Prescribing**

Naturopathic Doctors have demonstrated a strong record of safe and responsible prescribing in regulated jurisdictions. In the 26 U.S. states, districts, and territories that regulate naturopathic medicine, prescribing is authorized only under state law and board oversight, and NDs are accountable to state disciplinary processes.

**According to the Federation of Naturopathic Medical Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA), between 2010 and 2024 there were 74 disciplinary actions related to prescribing, averaging 5.3 per year across all regulated jurisdictions.** Statements that ND prescribing will lead to public safety risk are unfounded by data<sup>1</sup>.

SB193 will enhance patient care and access by allowing appropriately trained, regulated NDs to practice to the full extent of their education and licensure, supporting Alaska patients and strengthening the healthcare workforce.

We urge your strong support for SB193 to modernize naturopathic practice and ensure patients in Alaska receive the comprehensive, well-informed, and safe care they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (800) 345-7454 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Yanez, ND, MPH, CAE  
Executive Director  
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges

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<sup>1</sup> Disciplinary Actions taken by Jurisdictions from January 2010 to present  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FSQxx1ienhHGpCbWPOqrSWQMxYLGTXnpCiSkNy4Rd9s/edit?gid=0>