



February 16, 2026

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

RE: Support for SB 193 Naturopathic Doctor Prescribing Authority

Dear Senator Dunbar and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the national professional association representing over 8000 Licensed Naturopathic Physicians throughout 26 US jurisdictions, we strongly encourage, we strongly urge your support for SB193.

Allow me to provide the facts regarding the education, training, and safety of Alaska's Naturopathic Doctors (NDs).

- NDs are educated and trained as primary care physicians to diagnose and treat illness. They are graduates of four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral level programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). They complete 4100 hours in basic and clinical sciences, including hundreds of hours of training relating to pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. This is, in fact, extremely similar to the training and education of medical doctors, with the exception of residencies.
- Prescriptive rights align with naturopathic medical education and training. ND schools must educate students to practice in every licensed state, including the multiple states that allow the broadest prescribing privileges that includes everything needed in a primary care setting, including DEA Schedules II - V.

Additionally, NDs are educated and trained specifically on the mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions of pharmaceuticals. By understanding pharmacological principles, naturopathic practitioners can make informed decisions, minimize risks, and maximize therapeutic benefits for their patients. Naturopathic Doctors are also the only provider types uniquely trained in not only recognizing drug-drug interactions, but also drug-herb, and drug-nutrient interactions. With most of the population reporting independent use of dietary supplements in addition to being on pharmaceuticals, this is an increasingly important skill.

NDs have more pharmacology-specific classroom hours than most other professions: more than double the credits. But the important fact here is that neither Nurse Practitioners, nor Optometrists, nor

Dentists are required to complete a residency, yet all of these professions have the right to prescribe medication independently in Alaska, sometimes including controlled substances. Nurse Practitioners are required to do supervised clinical rotations during their education, just like Naturopathic Doctors.

NDs have been participating as licensed healthcare practitioners in Alaska since 1986. The AANP wholeheartedly supports passage of SB193, which will better serve the citizens of Alaska by allowing Alaska NDs access to the healthcare tools to effectively and safely treat their patients. I urge you to stay grounded in the evidence and experience, support SB 193, and bring your naturopathic scope of practice into alignment with every other western state.

I can be reached at 202-849-6306 for further information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Culberson Farr
Executive Director