

**From:** [James E O'Malley MD](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Carolyn Hall](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** Naturopath House Bill 147, Senate Bill 193  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 12:12:02 PM

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Naturopaths have presented with a desire for prescriptive authority. One of their claims is that their schooling includes a course on pharmacology, therefore they should have prescriptive authority. Somehow, this argument then shifts to: After they are granted the privileges to prescribe, naturopaths will then be eligible to serve the public as primary care physicians.

All of this would be silly if it weren't so dangerous.

In medicine, it is generally a really bad idea to grant privileges to someone who is not trained. Someone who is not trained to diagnose an illness should not be given privileges to treat that illness, any more than giving someone who has not been trained as a surgeon privileges to perform surgery.

Traditional medical is a combination of didactic learning and clinical experience. Most medical schools introduce clinical training during the first year; the third and fourth year is comprised mostly of clinical training.

The four years of medical school are then followed by a residency of at least three years, which is comprised of patient care with graduated levels of responsibility combined with clinical supervision by a trained medical staff. It is during this training period that the resident physician learns the all-important skills and experience in the diagnosis and treatment of disease that are necessary in the practice of medicine.

The State of Alaska requires at least two years of clinical residency for a physician to be granted a license to practice medicine in the State.

Naturopathic education in the U.S. consists of four years of didactic learning along with some "clinical exposure". The curriculum consists of lectures on nutrition, vitamins, and "natural" medications, many of which are not subject to scientific standards or regulation. Apparently "optional" courses in pharmacology are offered but are not required for graduation. Residency training after graduation is not required.

Naturopathic practitioners do not receive the clinical training which would allow for making diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Naturopaths graduate after their 4-year school and go into an office practice without any residency training. They have no training in the treating illness with modern pharmacology, no matter how much they propose to be supervised by an MD or DO. The proposed rationale for the Naturopath bill is absolutely no substitute for medical training.

It would be dangerous to the public to grant the Naturopaths the expansion of privileges that they seek.

If I can provide you with any clarification or additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

James E. O'Malley MD, FACS

General Surgeon



**From:** [Wade Erickson](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** HB 147 + SB 193 opposition  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 4:46:18 PM

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Dear Representative Fields,

I am writing in opposition to these bills expanding Naturopathic scope of practice. I do find value in their present scope in managing some disease and metabolic conditions for my patients. I do not believe they obtain adequate education or supervised training in pharmaceutical use. I am frankly surprised given the nature of their specialty that they would want to use them. That said, allowing inadequately trained professionals to prescribe can endanger patient health unnecessarily. Alaska should not be a test bed for this model. I am happy to discuss my experience with this subject if that would be helpful for you.

Respectfully,



**Wade Erickson, MD**  
**Founder**  
**Family Medicine / Obstetrics**

W: (907) 357-9590



**From:** [Harbir Makin](#)  
**To:** [ted.eischeid@akleg.gov](mailto:ted.eischeid@akleg.gov); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Carolyn Hall](#); [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#); [ep.robyn.frier@akleg.gov](mailto:ep.robyn.frier@akleg.gov); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Julie Coulombe](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Löki Tobin](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Pam Ventgen](#)  
**Cc:** [Creed Mamikunian](#); [Ankita Ambasht](#)  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT-URGENT Subject: Please Oppose HB 147 & SB 193 — Protect Patient Safety and Evidence Based Care  
**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2026 6:30:38 PM

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Dear Matt, Ted and respected Alaska Legislators: Greetings.

As you are aware, I have practiced Internal Medicine in this State for more than 4 decades and I rarely, if ever get involved in the politics of medicine. I have had the honor of being a physician for some of you and many others including politicians, attorneys, judges and many physician colleagues.

I have in my long tenure never opposed the introduction of bills that are introduced affecting the healthcare in this state, including allowing Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants to practice independently. Their paid lobbyists introduced these bills, and these physician-extendors calling themselves doctors, quietly advocated their way into providing UNSUPERVISED treatments to our citizens using " POOR ACCESS AND PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE " as an excuse. These physician extendors practice medicine with bare minimum training (mostly done with online Zoom classes to get a "doctorate degree") and unsupervised. Having quietly observed the consequences for years and watching patients subjected to low-quality care driven by inadequate medical judgment and decision-making, not only jeopardizes their safety but also drives up costs across a health system already strained by substandard care leading to unnecessary referrals to specialists and excessive and unnecessary diagnostic testing driven by lack of confidence and inadequate training.

It is time to oppose the bills that are quietly introduced into the legislation by self-serving mercenary lobbyists who do not understand or care about the long-term consequences of these legislations.

Therefore, I am now writing to urge you to oppose **HB 147** and **SB 193**, the two bills that would dramatically and dangerously expand the scope of naturopathic practice in Alaska. These bills would grant naturopaths broad prescriptive authority and medical diagnostic privileges that far exceed their education, training, and regulatory oversight, as a result, they pose significant risks to patient safety.

**Naturopathic training is not equivalent to medical education or residency.** Naturopathic programs are not accredited medical schools, and naturopaths do not complete ACGME-accredited residency training. Yet these bills would grant them authority that

exceeds what a newly graduated MD or DO may do in Alaska without completing the state's required minimum of two years of accredited residency. This undermines long-standing patient-protection standards of this State and across the country.

**Alaska would become a national outlier.** Only 22 states and a few territories license naturopaths at all. Fewer than half of those allow any prescriptive authority, and nearly all restrict it to a very narrow formulary. HB 147 and SB 193 would give Alaska one of the broadest naturopathic scopes in the country — without the training requirements that other states mandate. Are we going to allow Chiropractors next to have hospital privileges, prescribe prescription medications including narcotics for pain control and perform spine surgeries and procedures? You will be setting up a wrong and dangerous precedent that will affect the citizens of this state for years to come.

**There are no nationally recognized standards of care for naturopathic prescribing.** Unlike physicians, naturopaths do not operate under evidence-based prescribing guidelines, specialty society standards, or a national regulatory framework. Granting broad prescriptive authority without these safeguards puts patients at risk of delayed diagnoses, inappropriate treatments, and missed opportunities for timely medical intervention.

**Naturopathic practice is rooted in alternative medicine, not FDA-regulated care.** Naturopathic practice relies heavily on supplements, herbal preparations, and non-evidence-based modalities. Patients who choose alternative care should be free to do so — but alternative medicine should not be presented to the public as equivalent to science-based medical practice.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to:

- a) Reject HB 147 and SB 193**
- b) Maintain naturopaths in their current role as alternative-care providers and not encroach allopathy which is beyond their scope of training and practice**
- c) Protect patient safety by ensuring that medical diagnosis and prescribing remain tied to medical education, residency training, and evidence-based standards.**

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter and I respectfully ask for your commitment to safeguarding the health of Alaskans. I would be happy to engage in a dialogue, for one and only one reason which is to safeguard my patients.

Sincerely,

Harbir Makin, MD  
3300 Providence Drive  
Suite 114  
Anchorage, AK 99508

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**From:** [Jenna Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** HB 147 and SB 193  
**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2026 11:53:47 AM

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Hello,

I am reaching out in regards to HB 147 and SB 193. As a family physician, I urge you to oppose HB 147 and SB 193. While I respect our colleagues in Naturopathy, the role of Naturopathic medicine is alternative to allopathic (medication, procedure) based care. My patients often benefit from seeing a naturopath when Western allopathic medicine for complementary naturopathic care, because we physicians don't always have all the answers. We undergo extensive training, as well as midlevel providers like ARNPs and PAs, specifically in the type of medicine we practice. Same as us not learning the depth and breadth of naturopathy, naturopath training in allopathic medicine is not near what our profession has to do in terms of supervised direct patient care learning. One can pass a pharmacology test, however it takes rotations on the wards, direct patient care to truly understand the risks/benefits of medications and perform the standard of care in alignment with patient safety.

With the bill as it currently stands, Naturopaths would have more prescriptive authority than a fresh med school graduate. As someone earlier in my career I can still distinctly remember my days as a new medical resident (the 3+ years of hands on learning required to be board certified to practice medicine). I knew medications and their uses, but needed to practice it with supervision in order to learn through mistakes in a controlled environment. I was corrected many times by my attendings, preserving patient safety, to the point of competency for independent practice.

I do understand the need for access to care and the ability of a trusted naturopathic doctor to push patients towards evidence based care with medication management. Medicine is not perfect, and people seek alternative medicine for many reasons. This bill is essentially redefining naturopathic care. As an alternative, I think a collaborating physician seeing patients working with the naturopath preserves patient safety, rather than a minimally limited prescription authority granted to naturopaths.

To summarize, my concerns are:

- Competency and safety for naturopaths prescribing medication, cannot assure that they will perform the standard of care
- Redefinition of naturopathic care instead of more collaborative complementary approach
- Lack of limitations to what naturopaths can prescribe
- Lack of ongoing supervision
- Lack of standards of care for naturopath prescribing

- Lack of a medical board (there is none), with strong allopathic medicine oversight for prescribing practices

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to clarify any questions, feel free to reach out!

**Jenna Schmidt, MD (she/her)** | Physician, FM-OB

**From:** [laurie montano](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Carolyn Hall](#); [Rep. Ashley Carrick](#); [Rep. Robyn Frier](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. Julie Coulombe](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#)  
**Subject:** HB 147  
**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2026 11:00:57 AM

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Dear House Members of the Labor and Commerce Committee,

As a physician who has been practicing medicine in Anchorage for almost 24 years, I am writing to oppose HB 147.

This bill is dangerous. It gives naturopathic providers prescribing authority that is outside the scope of their training. They attend naturopathic schools that are not based in science and not accredited medical schools. As physicians, we not only attend our four years of medical school training, but we then attend a minimum of 2 years of post graduate residency training where we are supervised by other physicians who continue to educate us and give us more medical training. By increasing the scope of naturopaths outlined in this bill, you will fundamentally redefine what a naturopathic provider can do without the training required for medical doctors who do this job. This training is in place to not only give the prescribers the knowledge needed to be aware of how drugs physiologically work in the body but how they interact with each other. This expansion threatens the safeguards to our patients in our communities.

My first concern is patient safety, my second concern is increasing costs of medical care in an already stretched system. My patients or friends who have seen naturopathic providers often have many many unnecessary lab tests ordered that are not backed by evidence based medicine. Prescribing unnecessary medications or those not supported by science adds costs to our care that we as a community cannot afford.

Please note I am not opposed to patients seeking a naturopathic provider for an alternative to western medicine. I fully support this option for patients so they can choose this route if this fits with their ideals. I just respectfully ask that they stay in their lane and practice the alternative medicine they were trained to do.

Sincerely,

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Laurie Montano, MD  
Board certified physician in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics  
Co-owner Alaska Internal Medicine and Pediatrics  
Clinical Faculty University of Washington School of Medicine

**From:** [Downtown Dermatology](#)  
**To:** [Evan Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** HB 147 and SB 193  
**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2026 2:04:08 PM

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Hello,

Nice speaking with you. Here are some bullet points from ASMA about why this bill should not pass. Thanks again!

Dr. Miller

#### Why This Expansion Is Dangerous for Patients

1. Naturopathic training is not equivalent to medical education or residency

Naturopathic programs are not accredited medical schools, and naturopaths do not complete ACGME accredited residency training. Granting them prescriptive authority and broad diagnostic privileges would give them more statutory authority than a medical school graduate who has not yet completed residency – a standard Alaska rightly requires for patient protection.

2. Most states do not authorize naturopathic practice at all

- Only 22 states, D.C., and a few territories license naturopaths in any form.
- Fewer than half of those allow prescriptive authority.
- And in nearly all states that do allow prescribing, naturopaths are restricted to a limited formulary, not broad prescribing.

Alaska would become an outlier by granting one of the broadest scopes in the nation.

3. No recognized standards of care for naturopathic prescribing

Unlike physicians, naturopaths do not operate under nationally recognized, evidence based standards of care for prescribing medications. There is no national board, specialty society, or regulatory framework that defines safe prescribing practices for naturopaths.

4. Naturopathic practice is rooted in alternative medicine, not FDA regulated treatment

Current naturopathic practice relies heavily on:

- Non FDA approved substances
- Supplements and herbal preparations, many of which contain contaminants
- Alternative modalities not supported by clinical evidence

Patients who choose alternative care should be free to do so – but alternative medicine should not be presented to the public as equivalent to science based medical care.

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#### What We Are Asking Legislators to Do

We urge legislators to:

- Reject HB 147 and SB 193
- Maintain naturopaths in their current role as providers of alternative care, not medical practitioners
- Protect patient safety by ensuring that prescriptive authority and medical diagnosis remain tied to medical education, residency training, and evidence based standards

**From:** [Conley, Dante M](#)  
**To:** [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Naturopaths and Prescribing Powers (HB 147)  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2026 6:16:15 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

**I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 147.**

As a physician, I have dedicated 11 years to my medical education, including 4 years of medical school and 7 years of residency. Pharmacology was a fundamental subject throughout these years. In the initial stages, I delved into the mechanisms of drug action, pharmacokinetics (absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion), pharmacodynamics, receptor theory, and dose-response relationships. Later on, my focus shifted to drug selection, dosing, contraindications, drug-drug interactions, adverse effects, and therapeutic monitoring. I successfully passed three separate national examinations (the United States Medical Licensing Examination steps) to complete my medical degree, with pharmacology being a significant component of each examination. During my residency, I was required to pass annual exams on similar subjects. After completing my 11 years of training, I finally qualified for board certification. This involved a two-day written and oral examination, with pharmacology being a crucial aspect of the exam. As a board-certified physician, I now spend my days considering complex systems-based pharmacology to ensure that my patients receive the appropriate care.

In contrast, naturopathic doctors complete a 4-year naturopathic medical program. While pharmacology training is present, it is significantly limited in scope and depth. Basic pharmacologic principles and major drug classes are introduced, but the emphasis is on drug-herb and drug-nutrient interactions. Naturopathic effects are expected to be achieved through botanical medicine, nutrition, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, and lifestyle medicine.

This is why states such as Washington, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Kansas, Arizona, Rhode Island, Indiana, Minnesota, and Connecticut have refused to grant naturopathic doctors full prescription privileges. In 2023 alone, over 100 scope-of-practice bills were defeated due to concerns that naturopathic training is insufficient for safe pharmaceutical prescribing.

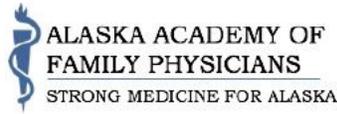
Physicians receive significantly more pharmacology training, both in theory and clinical practice. This is not an insult to naturopathy. Our disciplines have distinct training and should have different scopes of practice.

**Please vote against House Bill 147.**

Thank you for your time and attention,

Dante Conley, MD FACS  
Foundation Health Partners, Medical Director for Surgery  
American College of Surgeons, Alaska State Governor

Harvard Medical School, Class of 2006



Dear Representative Fields,

May 13, 2025

On behalf of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians (AKAFP), representing over 340 Family Physicians across Alaska, we respectfully express our concern regarding House Bill 147 (AK HB 147), which proposes a significant expansion in the scope of practice for Naturopaths in our state.

As currently written, HB 147 would authorize naturopaths to prescribe medications, a responsibility that demands extensive medical training, clinical experience, and regulatory oversight. This expansion is concerning given the differences in education and training between naturopaths and medical doctors. The bill's provision for only a brief period of physician supervision, without a requirement for ongoing oversight by a medical board, does not provide adequate safeguards for patient care.

The AKAFP values the important role Naturopaths play in Alaska's healthcare system. We recognize their contributions and are committed to working in collaboration with them. In fact, AKAFP leadership has devoted substantial time to working with representatives from the Alaska Naturopathic community over the years to draft legislation that reflects mutual goals and priorities. Unfortunately, HB 147 does not reflect the consensus that emerged from those discussions.

It is the position of the AKAFP that naturopaths first obtain a structure of strong regulatory oversight before any consideration of prescription medication management be considered. We believe that establishing a medical board or similar body to ensure competency and accountability is essential to protecting the health and safety of Alaskans.

We respectfully urge the legislature to reconsider HB 147 in its current form and work toward a solution that both supports collaborative care and maintains high standards of medical practice in our state. Thank you for your attention and for your continued commitment to the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Carlson Cosentino, MD*

Margaret Carlson-Cosentino, MD  
AKAFP President

President Margaret Cosentino, DO Anchorage	President-Elect Kristin Lee, MD Soldotna	Sec/Tres Jeremy Wood, MD Girdwood	1 Vice President Roxanne Jones, MD Soldotna	Past President Rebecca Taylor, DO Fairbanks
2 Vice President Megan Aspelund, DO Wasilla	3 Vice President Ellen Hodges, MD Bethel	Delegate Janice Sheufelt, MD Juneau	Delegate Elizabeth Roll, MD Bethel	Alternate Delegate Shawn Vainio, MD Girdwood

Carletta Hauck, Executive Director: [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]

February 19, 2026

*Submitted via email*

Representative Zack Fields  
Co-Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee  
The Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 24  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Carolyn Hall  
Co-Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee  
The Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Call to Reject HB 147

Dear Co-Chairs Fields and Hall:

The Center for Inquiry (CFI) writes to urge the House Labor & Commerce Committee to vote against HB 147. **This bill would unwisely permit the practice of naturopathy, a discredited form of pseudoscience, in the state of Alaska.**

CFI is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science, reason, and secularism in American law and policy. We have numerous supporters in Alaska.

Problematic Elements of the Bill

HB 147 allows licensed naturopaths to practice in Alaska provided that they pass the elective pharmacology examination portion of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination and meet other applicable requirements set by the state.

The bill further provides that a licensed naturopath “may prescribe and administer prescription drugs for preventive and therapeutic purposes” as long as they work under the auspices of a “supervising physician” who meets certain conditions. After a one-year supervision arrangement, a licensed naturopath is eligible to receive the state’s full endorsement to prescribe and administer prescription drugs without a supervising physician.

Under HB 147, naturopaths are restricted from giving, prescribing, or recommending “a controlled substance,” “a poison,” “a cancer chemotherapeutic drug,” or “an antipsychotic drug.” They are also prohibited from engaging in surgery or administering “therapeutic ionizing radiation or radioactive substances.”



## CFI's Analysis

CFI opposes this legislation because naturopathy is a pure pseudoscience — and permitting naturopaths to practice in Alaska would be a disservice to patients and consumers in the state. **Naturopathy fails to meet the rigors of science-based medicine and is rejected by nearly every medical expert.**

CFI has long advocated against allowing the practice of naturopathy, a field permeated with pseudoscientific theories.<sup>1</sup> We have spent years lobbying and educating lawmakers, at both state and federal levels, about the dangers of naturopathy. We have documented that the field of naturopathy is based on misinformation that prevents patients from being able to make informed decisions regarding treatment.

**For example, many naturopaths deny the safety and efficacy of vaccines, recommending instead that patients pursue pseudoscientific “nosodes” as an alternative method of immunization.**<sup>2</sup> In the current climate, this type of vaccine-related misinformation is particularly dangerous and could cost numerous lives. A 2010 study of children age one to seventeen in Washington State, which reviewed data for 213,884 individuals, found an increased likelihood of a history of vaccine-preventable disease — most often chickenpox — among those who had ever consulted with a naturopath.<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, naturopaths lack the medical education and training that real medical doctors receive. Real physicians must obtain MD degrees from accredited medical schools, meet rigorous clinical requirements, and (after years of schooling and training) go through intensive residency programs. Major naturopathic colleges in the United States, meanwhile, require students to study discredited practices such as homeopathy and energy healing. Naturopaths are not a substitute for medically trained physicians, plain and simple.

The specific danger of allowing naturopaths to prescribe medicine can manifest itself in many ways. For example, a naturopath may not understand how various medicines interact with each other, potentially creating a risk for the well-being of the patient.

**In Alaska, statements by the proponents of HB 147 make clear that they fundamentally misunderstand (or, worse, ignore) these realities.** Representative Mike Prax, who introduced HB 147, provides in his Sponsor Statement that a goal is for naturopaths to be able to “provide effective care for thousands of Alaskans with chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension” and that HB 147 will “enable Alaskans to choose their preferred healthcare style.”<sup>4</sup> Representative Prax adds that “[n]aturopathic education emphasizes holistic disease prevention rather than simply treating symptoms.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://centerforinquiry.org/advocacy/opposing-naturopathy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4443832>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2924961>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get\\_documents.asp?session=34&docid=8524](https://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=34&docid=8524)

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*



Similarly, Representative Andrew Gray, who cosponsored the bill, argues that HB 147 “meets people where they are” by giving options to Alaskans “who choose not to be seen by traditional medical providers.”<sup>6</sup>

These rationales miss the mark entirely. **No matter how “holistic” naturopaths claim their practice to be, they are not remotely qualified to treat diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. To pretend otherwise is dangerous, and it risks the health and well-being of countless patients in Alaska.** Likewise, it is the job of Alaska’s policymakers to protect consumers from harm, not to needlessly subject them to danger by following the red herring of “preferred healthcare style.”

Britt Hermes, a former naturopath who now regularly speaks out against the practice, demonstrates the danger of naturopathy. Hermes has documented the fact that, at the School of Naturopathic Medicine at Bastyr, she never learned about the medical standard of care for most illnesses and had minimal experience working directly with sick patients.<sup>7</sup> She also writes about discovering, two years into her naturopathy practice, that her supervisor had been importing a non-FDA approved drug from Austria to treat cancer patients. Hermes states that when she confronted her supervisor about this, her supervisor acknowledged he was “walking the ethical and legal line” but claimed that most naturopaths do the same thing.<sup>8</sup>

**Reliance on naturopathic practitioners means that patients not only forego effective treatment based on medical science, they are expending time and money to do so. In many cases, this unnecessarily extends patients’ pain and suffering and allows diseases to progress and worsen.** In short, there is both an opportunity cost and a financial cost to patients.

### Conclusion

For the reasons provided in this testimony, CFI urges the House Labor & Commerce Committee to vote against HB 147. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Azhar Majeed  
Director of Government Affairs and Policy

cc:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://mustreadalaska.com/bill-to-license-naturopaths-moves-forward-in-legislative-process>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.statnews.com/2016/10/20/naturopath-critic-britt-hermes>

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*



Members, House Labor & Commerce Committee

**From:** [Vicki Robbe](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** HB 147  
**Date:** Friday, December 12, 2025 11:33:41 AM

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Dear Representative Fields:

I am writing to you to express full support for House Bill 147, an act relating to the practice of naturopathic doctors (NDs). The bill would allow properly trained and licensed doctors of naturopathy to apply for a License Endorsement to prescribe medications for which they have been properly trained. I am one of many Alaska residents that are affected negatively by the current outdated law.

Years ago, I became a victim of arsenic poisoning after a 2002 earthquake fractured subsurface rocks and contaminated my source of drinking water. Although I sought treatment in Fairbanks for my condition, I was only prescribed drugs that masked my symptoms and only made the situation worse. It was clear that the MD and DO medical practitioners in the community were not knowledgeable on how to treat my condition.

Due to my deteriorating health, my family ultimately moved to Washington state where I was lucky enough to find a wonderful, licensed ND that understood my complicated medical problem. Under this trained professional's care, I underwent a detox treatment that was slow, but I had great success. It took five years for me to be able to stand still on my feet again without falling. I now function well with a few limited long-term effects; however, I can now live my life fully thanks to the care I received.

Imagine my frustration when returned to Fairbanks and I found out the ND I now see knew how to treat arsenic poisoning, yet none of my previous physicians would refer me to receive the treatment I needed. If they had, I would have received the treatment I needed sooner with far less cost and disruption to my family.

I am now faced with the inadequacy of Alaska law which requires me to source my medication from a compounding pharmacy out of state due to my sensitivities to additives in most prescription drugs. However, this requires me having it mailed through someone else since my current ND is unable to prescribe it in Alaska, and the pharmacy cannot mail it directly to me. I pay a lot of postage to have that small bottle mailed to me, and am not the type of person to not follow the law! I travel to see my out of state doctor so I can continue to use the medication I am on, and pick up the insurance allowed three-month supply while there. What an unnecessary expense to my family when the doctor I see in Alaska is very knowledgeable about prescription medications, and we have a compounding pharmacy 15 miles away! I certainly hope this law changes soon.

I am constantly amazed at the effectiveness of natural remedies but also recognize sometimes prescribed drugs are necessary. I respect the need for MDs but have learned that I can manage my health most effectively by receiving my primary care from my local ND. I should not be disadvantaged by having to establish and maintain a separate, and duplicative relationship with a MD or DO just to get medicine that has restored my health.

The Alaska Association of Naturopathic Doctors has offered a generous compromise with the wording of HB 147. The bill requires a ND to initially prescribe medications under a collaborative agreement with a MD or DO. However, once they prove their ability to state regulators, they would be able to prescribe on their own. It is important to highlight that the bill would not allow NDs to prescribe any controlled substance medication or chemotherapy drugs. This is a two-step process that has worked well in other states and will build an awareness of abilities between NDs, MDs and DOs that will serve the public well.

Please take action to advance HB 147 so that patients of NDs are no longer disadvantaged in obtaining the medical care that best fits their medical needs.

Vicki Robbe  
811 Suncrest Drive  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

**From:** [Karpinsky, Gabi](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Protect Patient Safety — Oppose HB 147 & SB 193 Naturopathy Expansion  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:46:48 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I urge you to Reject HB 147 and SB 193

- Maintain naturopaths in their current role as providers of alternative care, not medical practitioners
- Protect patient safety by ensuring that prescriptive authority and medical diagnosis remain tied to medical education, residency training, and evidence based standards

My name is Gabrielle Karpinsky. I am double boarded in Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care, practicing at Providence Alaska Medical Center. I have spent over 8 years on my medical degree, continued to pursue a PhD in cancer biology AND finished 6 years of residency and fellowship training. As a physician, these bills grant naturopaths medical authority without medical training, exceed national norms, and put patients at risk. I have had naturopaths write their own diagnostic tests for pediatric patients that led to unnecessary testing, inappropriate familial treatment plans and high risk sedation situations. Additionally, naturopaths do not follow guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics for preventative medicine and milestones, leading to misdiagnoses of developmental delay and therapy for children. Our training and privileges should be kept different and separate.

Regards,

Gabrielle Karpinsky MD, PhD

**Pediatric Critical Care Medicine | Trauma Liaison**

*Clinical Assistant Professor | University of Washington School of medicine*

Providence Alaska Childrens Hospital

3200 Providence Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99508

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**From:** [Jon Grace](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Carolyn Hall](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Pulmonologist Writing in Opposition to HB 147  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2026 7:30:09 PM

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To the Members of the Alaska House of Representatives regarding HB 147,

As one of the few practicing outpatient pulmonologists in Alaska as well as an ICU physician, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 147. In six years of practice in this state, I have repeatedly witnessed the consequences of patients receiving care from providers whose training did not adequately prepare them to recognize and manage serious illness. I am concerned that granting prescriptive authority to naturopathic providers — even under the supervision framework outlined in this bill — will put vulnerable Alaskans at greater risk.

I want to engage directly with the bill's provisions rather than dismiss them. The requirement for physician oversight during an initial endorsement period is a meaningful safeguard on paper. In practice, however, the fundamental problem is not whether a naturopath's prescriptions are reviewed for one year — it is whether their clinical reasoning, diagnostic acuity, and understanding of pharmacology are sufficient to prescribe safely at all. Passing the elective pharmacology portion of the NPLEX examination is not equivalent to the clinical competence required to prescribe medication responsibly.

For context: my own training consisted of four years of undergraduate education, four years of medical school (two of which involved direct patient care and supervised prescribing in hospital settings), followed by six additional years of residency and fellowship training during which every prescription I wrote was reviewed by an attending physician. That is fourteen years of progressively supervised clinical experience before I practiced independently. Suggesting that a pharmacology examination and one year of supervised prescribing confers comparable competence is, to use an analogy, like declaring a flight simulator graduate the equivalent of a mid-career Air Force pilot — the academic credential and the real-world skill are not the same thing.

The clinical consequences of this gap are not hypothetical. In my years of practice here, I have seen multiple patients present with delayed diagnoses after receiving care from naturopathic providers — arriving with more advanced disease than they would have had they been evaluated earlier by a physician trained to recognize it. In one case, a patient was treated for a presumed infectious process with an unproven remedy ineffectively for months and presented to the hospital with severe inflammatory lung disease. He died approximately one week later. The underlying condition was diagnosable and, had it been identified sooner, potentially treatable however the patient was never referred to a medical doctor. Cases like this speak not

to bad intentions on the part of the provider, but to the limits of training that does not adequately prepare someone to recognize when a patient's condition is outside their scope.

I want to be clear that I share the concern driving this legislation. Access to care in Alaska — particularly in rural communities — is a genuine crisis, and I do not oppose this bill simply to protect physician prerogatives. But HB 147 does not address the root causes of that access problem, and the patients most likely to see a naturopath as their primary provider are often the same patients least able to navigate a system that has failed them once already. Expanding prescriptive authority without the clinical foundation to support it will not improve their outcomes — it will expose them to new risks while giving the appearance of a solution.

I urge you to oppose HB 147 and instead support initiatives that address the access crisis through expanded physician residency programs, telemedicine infrastructure, and loan forgiveness incentives that bring trained medical providers to underserved areas of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Jon Grace, MD

Board Certified Pulmonology

Board Certified Internal Medicine

Board Certified Critical Care Medicine

Founder of Alaska Lung and Nodule Center

**From:** [Jerry Flynn](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Zack Fields](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 147 and SB 193  
**Date:** Saturday, February 14, 2026 7:56:01 PM

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Mr. Fields,

As a licensed family physician who has served the citizens of Alaska for the last 15 years, I am asking you to oppose HB 147 and SB 193. These bills grant naturopaths inappropriate medical authority without appropriate medical training. This is no joke, and yet over and over this issue keeps coming up.

Naturopaths are alternative care providers, and simply don't have the training or appropriate oversight to act in such a role. Blurring the line between a trained physician and a naturopath is dangerous, and results in inappropriate prescribing. We need to remember that naturopaths chose their role, and were not forced into it. They need to simply know when to refer their patients to appropriate providers who have appropriate training. You wouldn't want me flying a passenger plane if I deluded myself into thinking I knew how to do it.

In order to practice in Alaska, I had to graduate medical school, pass multiple boards examinations, and complete a three-year residency under direct supervision of competent attending physicians. The citizens of Alaska will not be better off by allowing fake practitioners to sneak through a back door to obtain licensure and prescribing authority.

Please let me know if you have any further questions,  
Jerald Flynn, MD

Chief of Staff, Providence Seward Medical Center  
Medical Director, Providence Seward Mountain Haven  
Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

**From:** [Abraham Tsigonis](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Carolyn Hall](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 147 & SB 193 Naturopathy Expansion  
**Date:** Saturday, February 21, 2026 8:35:23 AM

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Hello Zack, Carolyn, and Forrest,

I am a general surgeon and my wife is a family physician in Fairbanks, AK.

As physicians, we urge you to oppose HB 147 and SB 193. These bills grant naturopaths medical authority without medical training, exceed national norms, and put patients at risk. Please keep naturopaths in their role as alternative care providers and protect the integrity of evidence based medical practice.

Abraham and Katrin Tsigonis