



February 16, 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,

I am writing on behalf of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) to recommend that the Senate Health & Human Services Committee advance Alaska SB193, a bill to modernize Alaska's Naturopathic Doctor scope of practice.

The CNME is the only U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency for doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine (ND programs). Graduation from a CNME-accredited ND program qualifies an individual to take the NPLEX licensing exam and to become a licensed naturopathic physician in the Canadian provinces and U.S. states and where naturopathic medicine is a regulated medical profession, including Alaska.

The CNME's rigorous accreditation process promotes high-quality naturopathic medical education and training with the goal of ensuring safe and effective practice. The following are elements of a CNME-accredited ND program relevant to the committee's consideration of this proposed legislation:

- NDs eligible for licensure in Alaska complete a four-year (4,100+ hour), full-time, primarily residential, doctoral degree program that comprises biomedical and clinical science coursework similar to what is found in MD programs, including substantial training relating to pharmacology and pharmacognosy.
- In addition to courses on pharmacology and pharmacognosy, the ND curriculum incorporates extensive training regarding various organ systems and how to effectively care for a wide range of patient populations using both natural approaches and standard medications.
- In the third and fourth years of an ND program, student interns are further trained on pharmaceutical protocols, since a number of the patients they treat are also taking conventional medications.

Other states have already modernized and expanded the ND scope of practice based on their review of the CNME's naturopathic medical education standards and the curricula of accredited ND programs. Thus, if passed, SB193 will serve the residents of Alaska by enabling licensed NDs to utilize the full extent of their education and training to safely and effectively care for their patients.

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding CNME's accreditation standards and processes. Thank you for considering the Council's input on and support of SB193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Seitz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD
Executive Director