

February 2026

Re: HB 147/ SB 193 – Naturopathic Physician Prescriptive Authority

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of HB 147 / SB 193 and to offer my very unique perspective on this bill. I am a licensed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with 28 years in clinical practice, and for 25 of those years I have worked in the same medical office alongside naturopathic doctors (NDs).

This sustained professional collaboration has provided me with direct insight into their training, clinical reasoning, and patient care standards. In my experience, naturopathic doctors are highly knowledgeable, clinically competent, and deeply committed to their patients. They are well regarded within the community and maintain strong therapeutic relationships with those they serve.

I routinely consult with ND colleagues on complex cases. Their comprehensive, systems-based approach and thoughtful clinical perspective often contribute meaningfully to patient management, particularly in complex patients with chronic conditions. Their education and training provide a solid foundation in diagnosis, pharmacology, and patient care sufficient to responsibly exercise prescriptive authority.

Avante Medical Center, a well-established and respected clinic in our community, is owned and managed by a naturopathic physician. Many naturopathic doctors in Alaska successfully operate independent practices and serve as primary care providers for a substantial patient population.

Granting limited prescriptive authority as requested in the legislation would allow NDs to practice closer to the full extent of their education and clinical training. At a time when Alaska continues to face significant primary care access challenges, expanding the capacity of qualified providers is a practical and forward-looking solution. This legislation would strengthen the healthcare workforce and broaden patient access to comprehensive care.

I would be pleased to answer any questions or provide additional perspective based on my professional experience working closely with naturopathic doctors for over two decades.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bethany Buchanan, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Family Nurse Practitioner
Doctor of Nursing Practice