

4-3-23

To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is DeAnna Recknagle and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our unique healthcare challenges in Alaska, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

I have been receiving care from Dr. Dreyer (Alaska Natural Health Center) & Dr. Wiggins (Vitae) and my experience has been exceptional.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44.

DeAnna Recknagle

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3-15-24

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I am writing to encourage you to support and facilitate passing SB 44. I have been seeing a naturopath for most of my adult life. I have received excellent care. I have felt taken care of in mind, body, and spirit. Naturopaths have been at the forefront of recognizing whole person care for decades and they receive excellent training to prepare them for practice. Because my naturopaths keep me healthy I have rarely needed prescriptions, but the times I have needed them have been a hassle. I have to make appointments with providers that don't know me to get access to medications that I already have a diagnosis for. It's time consuming for me and it helps to incur unnecessary cost to my insurance and honestly takes up valuable time that another patient could be using. And oftentimes it takes a long time to get in and I experience delays in my care and treatment. Naturopaths all over the country have prescriptive authority and I think Alaskans could benefit greatly from these providers having the same authority. We have an alarming shortage of primary care providers in Alaska. Allowing Naturopaths to practice at their full scope can help alleviate this shortage. It would also open pathways for more naturopaths to want to practice here in our state further reducing health disparities and expanding access to care. I appreciate your time and attention to the matter.

Regards,

Shawna Cooke APRN

Family Nurse Practitioner

On Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 12:54:52 PM PDT, Dolores Owen <[daowen1@yahoo.com](mailto:daowen1@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Senator Giessel and Senator Stevens,

My name is Dolores Owen, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I have been a resident of Alaska for almost 30 years. My family has personal experience with Naturopathic doctors. My son has a chronic condition and was treated by MD/Dos in his youth, but when he was going into high school the condition worsened and were told by his doctors there was nothing else they could do. Desperate, we sought out a Naturopathic doctor in Portland, Oregon because nothing was available in Alaska. Within a few weeks of following his NDs treatment plan, his condition was completely reversed! Why? Because she looked at him as a whole – his diet, his stressors, etc and treated his whole body for inflammation – not just treating a symptom as had been done in the past.

Our experience with this ND, and others (because our primary care doctor for our family is now an ND) was so inspiring to my daughter. She was already on a pre-med track in college and planning to be an MD. She switched tracks and attended Bastyr University, graduating in 2021 as a Naturopathic doctor. She passed her board certification, and is currently in her second year of residency at a primary care clinic in Seattle, Washington.

My daughter was born and raised in Craig, Alaska, and would love to return to her home state to practice medicine. But why would she do that when Alaska does not recognize her training and skill? I have attached a document showing a comparison of ND vs MD/DO training. Please take a close look and realize that there must be change.

Alaska is behind the ball. The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our unique healthcare challenges in Alaska, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44. Without this bill, Alaska residents will have to see ND care out of state, and Alaska will continue to struggle with having enough medical providers.

Sincerely,

Dolores A Owen

Craig, Alaska

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