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The Honorable
Senator Robert Myers
Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov

Re: Support for SB44
Senate Health and Social Services Committee Hearing February 23rd

Date: February 14, 2023

Dear Senator Myers:

I am writing to support passage of SB44, enabling my naturopathic Doctor to practice medicine to the full extent of his training. I want to thank you for co-sponsoring this bill.

I was shocked to discover that my naturopathic doctor (ND) could not provide vaccines, even though existing Alaska statutes appear to include the ability to administer injections. But a vaccine is a prescription item, and neither naturopathic, nor for that matter dentists, were able to step in and provide vaccinations in the Fairbanks North Star Borough Covid vaccine clinic. Fortunately, we were able to find enough EMT's, RN's, and others willing to assist. Adding naturopaths will simply increase the number of willing volunteers for the next global pandemic.

I find I am provided a longer and more in-depth appointment with my naturopathic doctor, closer to the family doctor visit of long ago. The shorter 15 to 20 minute appointment with an MD may be sufficient for a quick decision and script for a pill, but frankly, seems too brief to discuss underlying symptoms and conditions.

The MD's focus on prescribing drugs to treat symptoms led me to an alternative approach to a health care. I greatly appreciate the in-depth technical discussions I have with my ND. The relationship of diet, hormones, lifestyle and how to affect desirable changes in all. Yes, discussions can include medications, for which, under current regulatory authority, I need to add several weeks in order to schedule an additional appointment with an MD. Lifestyle issues may seem obvious to an MD, but are difficult to unravel, and in my case, take time.

Please inform Senator David Wilson, Chairman, and members of his Health and Social Services Committee, of my support for SB 44. Please provide a copy of this letter to the committee for the hearing tentatively scheduled on February 23rd, 2023. And please encourage members of the committee to vote the bill out with a "Do-Pass" recommendation.

It is a gorgeous February in Fairbanks. The days are getting longer, and sunshine ripples off the crisp snow. Our roads are in much better shape than last year. Thank you for your service in Juneau.

Sincerely,
Bruce W. Campbell