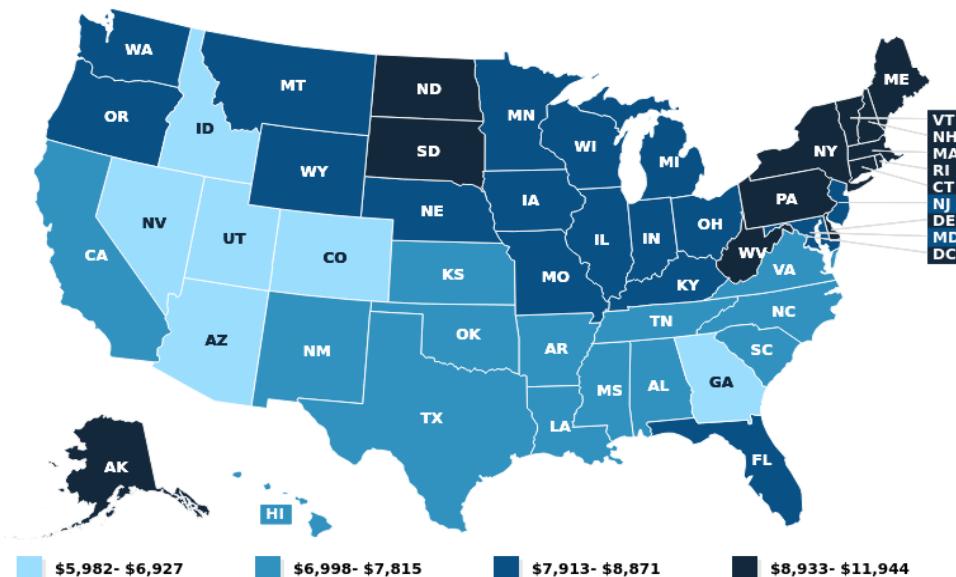

HB 326 Overview

— Naturopathic Doctor Legislation —

Alaskans pay some of the highest cost for healthcare in the country

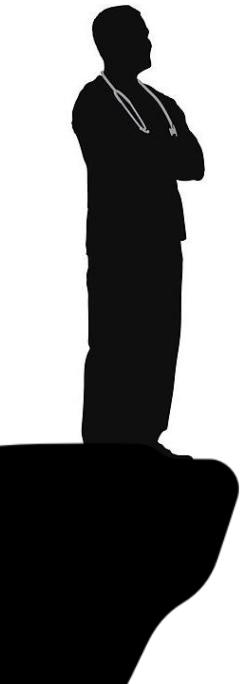
Health Care Expenditures per Capita by State of Residence: Health Spending per Capita, 2014



- Improving health care and controlling health care costs remain top priorities of the Alaska Legislature
- Despite high costs, rates of chronic and preventable diseases continue to climb

Restrictive Regulations Create a Significant Gap Between Naturopathic Training and Allowed Scope

- Shortage of primary care remains in Alaska despite the presence of NDs trained to provide it
- NDs qualify for Indian Health Service's national loan repayment program aimed at increasing healthcare access in remote Alaska, but are unable to make use of this program due to the limited scope of practice.
- ***This decreases competition, drives up costs and limits access for healthcare consumers***



Solution: Allow Naturopaths to Practice What They are Educated to Do

- Immediately enables dozens of new primary care providers (~57)
- This scope is being practiced safely in many other states



What Are Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)?



- Training to provide evidence-based primary care, with a patient-centered focus that **prioritizes disease prevention over symptom management and drug therapies**
- Emphasis on longer office visits (~60-90 min.)
- This approach tends to reduce need for healthcare utilization, as well as long-term costs

Education

4-Year Accredited Medical School Program

- 2 Years of basic sciences; 2 years clinical sciences and treatment methods
- Regulated by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education, which is overseen by the US Department of Education - same as other medical schools
- NDs must pass the two-part Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations (NPLEX), before being licensed to practice



ND Therapeutic Order Progresses From Minimal to Higher Levels of Intervention as Necessary

Minimal

- Clinical Nutrition / Diet
- Counseling / Behavior Change
- Hydrotherapy & Others
- Herbal Medicine
- Physical Manipulation
- Pharmaceuticals (*Not allowed in AK*)
- Minor Surgery (*Not allowed in AK*)

Greater



Level of Intervention

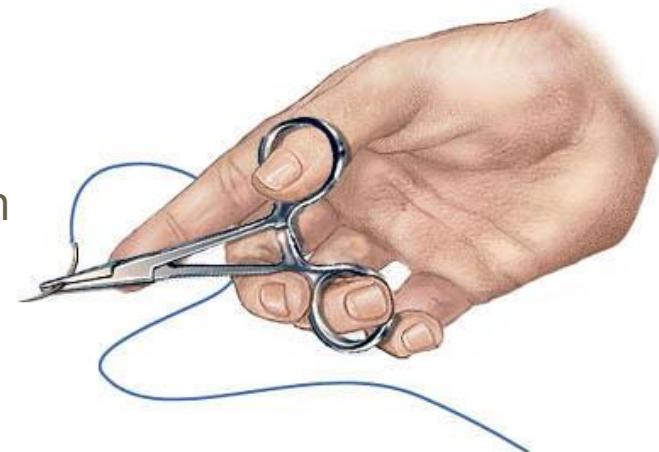
HB 326: Key Provisions

HB 326 defines a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors which reflects their education and training

- Cleans up outdated language
- Allows NDs to perform minor office procedures (minor surgeries)
- Allows issuance of vitamins, minerals and other *non-controlled* substance prescription medications
- Requires 24 hours of continuing education every 2 years

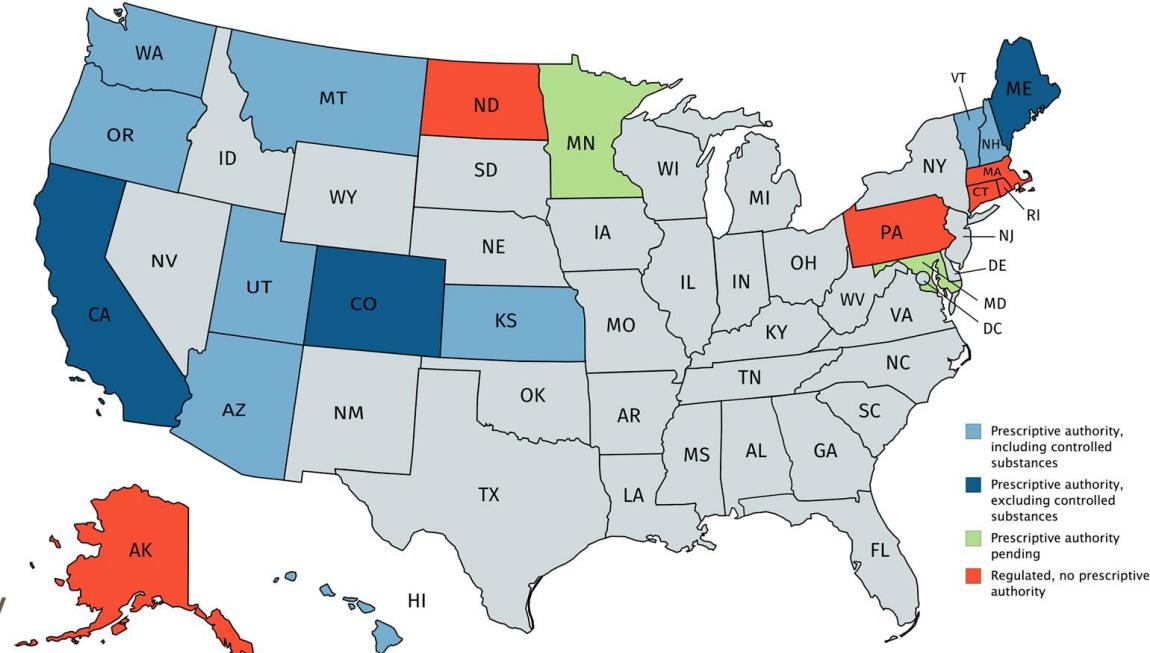
Key Provision: “Minor Office Procedures”

- Allows repair of superficial lacerations & skin biopsies (e.g. stitches, wart removal, punch biopsies)
- Does NOT include any sort of major, internal or plastic surgery, or those involving the eyes, tendons, ligaments, nerves, or blood vessels
- NDs complete an avg. of 100 hour of training in this area
- Being practiced safely in many other states



Key Provision: Prescriptive Authority

- Applies *only* to Non-Controlled Substance medications (excluding Testosterone & Ambien)
- Alaska already allows prescriptive authority for other healthcare providers with equal or lesser pharmacological training
- This is being practiced safely in many other states



HB 326 offers one clear, safe and tangible step towards better healthcare in Alaska



- Increases competition and drives down healthcare costs
- Improves healthcare access
- Provides clear guidance to state regulators
- Allows healthcare professionals to do what they are educated to do