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**HB 147 Sponsor Statement**

*"An Act relating to the practice of naturopathy and providing for an effective date."*

House Bill 147 allows licensed Alaska naturopathic doctors to apply for a temporary endorsement to practice closer to their level of education and training. This will enable Alaskans to choose their preferred healthcare style and help alleviate the shortage of primary care providers in the state.

Approximately 50 licensed naturopaths provide effective care for thousands of Alaskans with chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension in an overburdened healthcare system. However, current limitations on naturopathic care require patients to schedule duplicate appointments for prescriptions increasing healthcare congestion and costs.

HB 147 allows licensed naturopaths to obtain a temporary license endorsement through a written agreement with a supervising physician. This endorsement **prohibits** the prescription of controlled substances, chemotherapy drugs, antipsychotic drugs, radioactive substances, and performing invasive surgeries. After one year under this agreement, licensed Alaska naturopaths may get an ongoing endorsement linked to the regular licensing renewal process.

The legislation requires all licensed Alaska naturopaths to complete sixty hours of continuing education every two years, including twenty hours in pharmacotherapy.

HB 147 authorizes state licensing personnel to suspend or revoke an endorsement after investigating a complaint against a licensed naturopath. The legislation also makes prescribing medicine without an endorsement illegal and addresses fraudulent actions to obtain an endorsement.

Naturopathic education emphasizes holistic disease prevention rather than simply treating symptoms. In the long term, naturopathic care offers affordable and enhanced health outcomes for patients, insurers, and the state, while providing Alaskans the opportunity to select the type of healthcare that best suits their needs.

Please join me in supporting House Bill 147.

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