



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE BILL 266

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

Passage of House Bill 266 will allow naturopaths to continue to have the ability to provide natural medicines to those who rely on them for their well-being.

Naturopathic doctors say the measure is needed because some pharmacies recently are refusing to supply them with natural or herbal medicines and are doing so because of instructions from the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.

House Bill 266 would put, in statute, regulatory language that has been on the books for roughly 18 years. It would allow naturopaths to provide their patients a medicine that is "derived from or is a concentrate of or is an extract of a plant, tree, root, moss, fungus, or other natural substance if the medicine is not a controlled substance." This is based on 12 Alaska Administrative Code 42.990(3).

This measure does not expand the naturopathic scope of practice; rather, it protects what naturopaths now do as prescribed by law – thus giving Alaskans the power to choose what health modalities work best for them.

The sole purpose of this bill is simple: to keep the naturopathic scope of practice the way it has been in Alaska for nearly two decades.