

Kendra Kloster

From: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 1:01 PM
To: Kendra Kloster
Subject: FW: HB 282 - expand access to naturopathic medicine this session

Please add to file on naturopathic bill

From: Juneau Montessori School [mailto:montessori@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Cc: dremilykane@gmail.com
Subject: HB 282 - expand access to naturopathic medicine this session

Dear Cathy,

I am writing in support to expand access to naturopathic medicine in Alaska. Companion bills SB70 and HB282

Alaskans deserve to have access to the services of a variety of licensed health care practitioners. I believe that in the many areas of the State where primary care medical doctors are scarce or overextended, having access to other types of qualified and licensed primary care professionals, including naturopathic physicians will be of great service to those people.

It has been our family's experience that naturopathic care makes sense. After being diagnosed with arthritis by a medical doctor and prescribed expensive pharmaceuticals with a long list of side effects, that I was expected to take for the rest of my life, I decided to seek naturopathic care. The treatment included mainly changes on my diet and lifestyle; which, in a short period of time, reduced significantly the symptoms and improved my overall health. I did not need those pharmaceuticals any more. Other chronic illnesses I suffer since I was a teenager have been successfully managed by alternative medicine. So far I have avoided surgery my medical doctor anticipated 20 years ago. Since then, my two children, now 18 and 14, have mostly been cared by naturopathic and other alternative care professionals, who have worked with our family to promote wellness and prevent diseases that run genetically through our family, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Please ensure that the Alaskan people have freedom of choice in health care by allowing naturopathic physicians to be recognized as primary care physicians by the US Department of Labor and update outdated laws in the State of Alaska to allow them to create an Alaska Naturopathic Medical Board; allow Medicaid patients to access naturopathic care, and support continuing medical education.

By recognizing naturopathic physicians the State would also increase the supply of primary care providers and reduce overall health care costs.

Thank you for your continued support for children and families in our State,

Lupita

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