

January 31, 2010

RE: HB 282

Dear Representative Cathy Munoz:

Thank you so much for your support of naturopathic care! Over the years, I have had two naturopathic care doctors – Dr. Torrey Smith/Anchorage and Dr. Daniel Young/Eagle River. Both have provided excellent care. I actually prefer “alternative” care since I do not wish to be on prescription medications unless absolutely necessary, but most of all, Dr. Smith and Dr. Young actually listen to my concerns.

In March of 2008, I started going to Dr. Young. Since my husband and I are both retired teachers, he was able to accept my health insurance. Needless to say, I was thrilled! The most wonderful thing was the time he spent with *speaking* with me regarding my health concerns. No hurry-hurry, no rush-rush. Here was a doctor who fully listened to my questions and concerns. He asked me questions and had me fill out a survey so that he could see me as a “whole” patient.

At that point, I had two main concerns – an ear problem and what seemed to be something like irritable bowel syndrome. I had spent Christmas 2007 a nervous wreck taking Imodium AD to relieve symptoms, and I was particularly nervous about flying.

Before going to Dr. Young, I had gone to 3 different ear specialists. One doctor was extremely rude – so rude in fact, I wrote a letter to him to express my dismay with his personal comments during an appointment. I was so shocked at his comments that I didn’t even speak. By the way, his response to my letter consisted of six, hand-written, rambling pages assuring me that he got 1,500 new patients each year, and basically said I just didn’t understand his *sense of humor*. Really?

Dr. Young used acupuncture to treat my ear, but my insurance did not cover acupuncture, so he recommended an ear specialist that I now trust and go to regularly.

As for my other concern, Dr. Young was able to diagnose and help me almost immediately through office treatments and herbal formulas.

Currently I am on Medicare and since he does not accept Medicare, I have to pay Dr. Young out of pocket. Even with that, I prefer to go to him because of his excellent, personal care.

Please, please work to expand access to *all qualified health care providers in Alaska*. As Alaskans, we are so blessed to have their devoted care.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sellens/Wasilla
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