

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304 • (907) 561-2063 (fax)

March 1, 2010

Honorable Kurt Olson
State of Alaska
House of Representatives
Chair, House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB282 – Naturopaths

Dear Representative Olson:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA opposes HB282 and any expansion of a naturopath's scope of practice beyond that which is currently formed in AS08.45. ASMA simply does not believe that the naturopaths' education and training is comparable to that of an MD or DO. Thus, the expansion of the scope of practice found in HB282 is not warranted.

Attached is an abstract from the AMA Scope of Practice Data Series for Naturopaths, September 2009. (I will also provide to you the full AMA report.) I believe this shows the sharp contrast in the depth and scope of training between an MD or DO and a naturopath.

Naturopaths are not an answer in meeting the ever growing problem of the decline of primary care physicians and the access to care issues for our senior citizens. Elderly, Medicare beneficiaries are some of the most complicated patients to care for having multiple chronic conditions or diseases, and taking number of different prescription drugs. The Medicare program does not recognize naturopaths.

ASMA urges you and your committee members to oppose HB282.

Sincerely,



By: Brion Beerle, MD, President
For: The Alaska State Medical Association