

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Renee Ernster <renee.ernster@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 10:03 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good day,

I would like to voice my support for HB91. My ND is a valuable source for me in my pursuit of good health.

It has been quite inconvenient and costly to visit multiple practitioners for vaccines and immunizations.

Please empower our healers with all the tools necessary to provide their patients with the best care possible.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on this matter.

Renee Ernster  
PO Box 3496  
Valdez, AK 99686  
~~8072856933~~

04/08/2019

3419 Airport Way, Suite D.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

To Whom It May Concern: Re House Bill 91.

I am a physician licensed in the state of Alaska. I have had a long-term working relationship for nearly 30 years with Naturopathic doctors in the state of Alaska. Naturopathic doctors provide an extremely important and complementary role in patient care in our state. I have worked with many providers to improve the quality of care of our state's practice and provide many services unavailable in conventional medical practice. The Naturopathic doctors are trained and provide prescriptive service in many states in the US and they have oversight at a board level as do MD's and DO's. They should be able to have prescriptive rights that correspond to their medical training. I personally refer many of my patients to Naturopathic physicians for care. There are naturopathic physicians providing services such as low dose allergen therapy not available in the conventional medical practice as well as many others. My patients have benefited tremendously by the care given by our Naturopathic colleagues. Many patients find access to healthcare in Alaska daunting and prescriptive rights should be granted to those with adequate training and oversight at a board level should be undertaken.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey A. Zuckerman, M.D.

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** P. Hayes <bpeacealaska@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 2:05 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To the members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee

I support HB91. I am a registered nurse who has worked cooperatively with Alaska Naturopathic physicians during the past 40 years.

I respectfully request that you recognize the full scope and value of naturopathic training by granting naturopaths the prescribing rights for which they have been trained.

Please include the rights to help patients with minor in-office procedures.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patsy Hayes, RN

~~PHONE 907-645-2772~~

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Ann Hackett <homeraha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 10:13 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of House Bill 91. I support the wellness approach to healthcare which Naturopaths provide. I believe that their approach lowers health care costs in the long run, because of their focus on prevention and early intervention, including diet, lifestyle changes, supplements, and nonpharmaceutical treatments. Many very costly health conditions are preventable if diagnosed and treated early with the naturopathic approach.

Naturopaths should be able to function as primary care providers for Alaskans. As a retired Alaskan teacher, it has been costly for the Alaska Care insurance system when, because of restrictions on Naturopaths, I've had to have appointments with both Naturopaths and Physicians for the same condition, since neither could provide all of the treatments needed. Naturopaths should be granted all medical privileges which are consistent with their training, as they have been in many other states, including prescribing pharmaceuticals when necessary, prescribing diagnostic imaging, and performing minor in-office procedures.

I urge you to support the passage of House Bill 91!

Sincerely,  
Ann Agosti-Hackett

PO BOX 19844  
Juneau, Alaska 99803

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Amanda Riley <amanda.jf.riley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 8:07 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** aknaturopaths@gmail.com

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support HB91 because it would have a positive impact on my life and on the lives of my family members and our friends.

We love our naturopath's. They have kept us healthy and happy naturally for so many years! Having an experienced and caring naturopath in my small town (Eagle River, AK) is awesome and absolutely necessary when raising young kids.

We support HB91!!!!

-Amanda

April 11, 2019

To: Alaska House Labor & Commerce Committee / Co-Chairs LeDoux & Wool, and Members Fields, Hannan, Stutes, Revak, and Talerico:

From: **Wayne Aderhold** (Homer; representing myself- a consumer-patient)

Re: HB-91 / Practice and Licensing of Naturopaths: statement **IN SUPPORT**

This bill:

- Is (finally) a **clear, concise and comprehensive** re-write of the original (rushed) 1986 statute that has been long overdue (kudos to the Sponsor!)
- removes long-standing roadblocks to the proper practice of this profession in Alaska and promotes **responsible commerce** and **free-market principles** (hopefully in time to prevent further loss of trained medical professionals to other States where the practice is reasonable governed)
- allows for the scope of practice to be rightfully determined by both a **basic requirement** (education and accreditation) and then **expanded by additional training and experience** (based on a practitioner's willingness to invest their time and resources toward advanced practice modes.

Please move this bill out of committee – we've had years of unnecessary turmoil generated by unjustified "fear" (of competition) ... which has hurt consumer-patients (like me).

I firmly believe:

- We (AK consumer-patients) deserve a choice between naturopathic and allopathic primary care - that is, the choice to focus on the root cause of illness with a practitioner authorized to deliver services according the full level of their training.

- Naturopathic doctors deserve to have a tool box filled according to their basic education and supplemented by any recognized advanced training they are willing to obtain to better serve patients like me.

You heard Director Chambers last week confirm the outstanding safety record of the naturopathic profession from a consumer standpoint. Let the free market continue to set the demand for this service and simply give the Department clear authority to regulate the practice.

I could go into detail about how prescriptive authority has directly played into my 26 years of experience with NDs (e.g. “weening” off an anti-depressant, “prescription” anti-biotic vs pure plant-based anti-biotic as part of a gut restoration regime, off-label prescription of naltrexone in a specially-compounded dose as part of an auto-immune treatment plan) ... and I could talk about my terrible experience in 2002 resulting from choosing a Board-certified surgeon in AK to remove a small skin lesion that could easily have been taken care of by my ND if allowed (instead, the surgeon left me “dirty margins”, a melanoma diagnosis, and zero advice. My situation only turned around when I met with an ND the next day in Anchorage who referred to a cancer ND, who in turn got me to an ND’s clinic in AZ specializing in cancer treatment). I’m alive today, and in relatively good health at 69 years of age, I believe, mainly because of my choice to be proactive and incorporate naturopathic treatment, which demands patient responsibility, as my primary care.

I’d like to briefly address one of Rep. Wool’s previous questions regarding “the map” (of states showing their status on ND regulation) because there is a lot of “medical-political” history underlying that map and that history is relevant to why we’re having this hearing today.

The healthcare arena has been in some level of inter-practitioner warfare since the beginning of time, and the dominant paradigm often tries to eradicate its competition. The reason there are so many “unregulated” states for naturopathy is that this map shows the resurgence by popular demand of “patient-centered” care after the allopathic school wiped out naturopathy’s predecessor, homeopathy, in the early twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> Consumer demand has created this current trend favoring practitioners employing a “root cause” focus

and requiring significant patient responsibility in treatment (vs doctors who rely on the pharmaceutical industry to lead their practice).

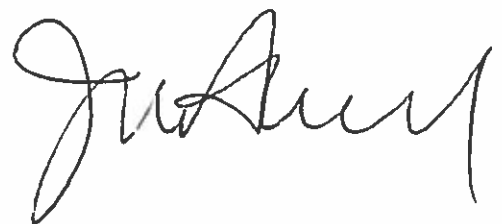
I fully expect from past legislative attempts to fix the ND statute that the sole opposition to this bill will come from ASMA (Alaska State Medical Association) and there will be overwhelming support from patient-consumers (who have been relying on the naturopathic profession for their health, and supporting with their feet and wallets (often without reimbursement from insurance coverage). Please keep this history in mind when acting on this bill and know that regardless of whatever smokescreen is presented, that the underlying argument is based on fear (of further loss of "turf") and a desire to eliminate any competition<sup>ii</sup>. Also keep in mind that the AMA (and presumably ASMA) only represent about 18 to 20% of "physicians" who are eligible to join these medical guilds or unions. Many competent and fearless MDs have embraced change by leaving the perceived comfort of their professional "silos" to join up with NDs, Chiropractors, Nurse Practitioners, Acupuncturists, Psychologists and others to share and gain greater knowledge through organizations like the IFM (Institute for Functional Medicine).

I firmly believe "Scope of Practice" for all medical professionals (including prescriptive authority) should be earned through hard work, not doled out through political power and treachery.<sup>iii</sup>

Please pass this bill out of committee and into law knowing you've satisfied your requirement for due diligence. At the introductory hearing, I heard a few questions posed by committee that I could respond to at some length from a "patient's perspective". I'm willing to offer my input to any member who would like follow up time with me (in person). I'm 69 years old and have 26 years' experience with naturopathy as my primary care through a number of significant healthcare challenges, including cancer. I will fly to Juneau to meet with any legislator, if that's what it takes to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

**Wayne Aderhold** /Homer, AK 99603 / [aderhold@xyz.net](mailto:aderhold@xyz.net)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Aderhold', written in a cursive style.



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<sup>i</sup> For a comprehensive history of this time period, I suggest reading Vol III of Harris L. Coulter's "Science and Ethics in American Medicine" series (1800-1914), subtitled "Divided Legacy, The Conflict Between Homeopathy and the American Medical Association" (552pgs)

<sup>ii</sup> If you have any doubt as to how brutal and unethical the fight can get, I suggest you read the 1987 summary and injunction against the AMA by Judge Susan Getzendanner, US District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern District in the Chiropractic Antitrust suit (Wilk et al., v. AMA et al.) which involved boycott and conspiracy on a massive scale. I will gladly forward a pdf copy of the "summary" (49pgs) to any Committee member interested.

<sup>iii</sup> In 2006 the AMA instituted an effort they titled "Scope of Practice Partnership" in which they attempted to limit the practices of other professions, including putting the binders on a doctorate program in nursing. (The following is a 2009 update by John Weeks/The Integrator blog): [The American Medical Association's Scope of Practice Partnership](#) (AMA SOPP) campaign, through which the AMA has been monitoring and typically fighting against scope expansions by non MDs since 2006 has its hands full. A [chart from the AMA available here](#) lists 154 separate legislative campaigns in various states in 2009 which it opposes. These are from professions ranging from psychologists, advance practice nurses and optometrists to naturopathic doctors and chiropractors and other nominally "CAM" disciplines. Below is the subset of actions related to complementary and alternative healthcare practices which made the AMA's watch list.

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#### **CAM Field State Legislative Action on the Watch-List of the AMA's Scope of Practice Partnership Campaign**

ND = Naturopathic doctor

DC = Doctor of Chiropractic

LAc = acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioner

CPM = Certified professional midwife

State	Profession	Scope of Practice Issue (in the terms used by the AMA*)
California	NDs	Prescribing privileges
Colorado	DCs	Ability to refer to selves as "physicians"
Colorado	NDs	Licensure
Delaware	CPMs	Licensure
Idaho	CPMs	Licensure
Illinois	NDs	Licensure
Indiana	CPMs	Licensure
Michigan	DCs	Authority to determine differential diagnosis; access to imagine (sic) technology
Michigan	DCs	Authority to treat the entire body, including joints and extremities not currently permitted
Missouri	CPMs	Licensure
Missouri	NDs	Licensure
New Hampshire	NDs	Prescribing privileges

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New Mexico	LAc	Expanded prescriptive authority
New York	DCs	Scope of practice expansions within workers' compensation
New York	NDs	Licensure
North Carolina	DCs	General scope expansions
North Carolina	CPMs	Licensure
North Carolina	NDs	Licensure
Ohio	NDs	Licensure
Oklahoma	NDs	Licensure
Oregon	DCs	General scope expansions
Oregon	NDs	Prescribing privileges
South Carolina	DCs	General scope expansion
South Carolina	NDs	Licensure
Tennessee	NDs	Licensure
Texas	LAc	Licensure
Utah	CPM	General scope expansions
Virginia	NDs	Licensure
Wisconsin	DCs	General Scope expansions
Wisconsin	NDs	Licensure
<b>Also</b>		
Nevada	"Alternative Medicine Practitioners/CAM"	General scope of practice expansions without registration/regulation/licensure
Various states	"Non-physician providers"	<i>An array of issues including:</i> ability to employ MDs; use of lasers; administration of certain injectable materials including, but not limited to, flourescein dye, collagen or Botulinium toxin

(\*) In some cases prescribing rights already exist and the issue is expansion of those rights.

Source: American Medical Association-Advocacy Resource Center;  
[Scope of Practice Campaign - Trends for 2009 State Legislative/Regulatory Sessions](#)

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Of the 154 areas of concern to the AMA, 30 (19%) relate directly to the distinctly licensed, or would-be-licensed, complementary and alternative healthcare fields. Of these, 14 were legislative initiatives of naturopathic doctors, 8 of chiropractors, 6 those of certified professional midwives (homebirth-oriented direct-entry midwives) and 2 involving practitioners

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Tim Gray <timgraydirectly@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of HB 91. Naturopathic medicine has allowed me to better manage and treat my medical issues, often when allopathic approaches have fallen short. This bill is a public health issue that allows consumers greater choices where their health matters are concerned. HB91 must be passed. Thank you.

Tim Gray  
timgraydirectly@yahoo.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Linda DeFoliart <linda.defoliart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 3:56 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am asking you to support HB91. I have celiac disease and every bit of help I have had in diagnosing and treating this has come from a naturopath. Life would be so much simpler if they were allowed to prescribe so I didn't have to make an additional visit to a doctor's office.

Thank you,  
Linda DeFoliart

~~Redacted Address~~  
Fairbanks, AK ~~99705~~

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Olivia Lunsford <oliviaklunsford@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 3:57 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I support HB91 because I support natural medicine.  
I have visited a naturopath ever since I moved to Alaska, and do my best to keep it that way.  
I know I would utilize more services at her clinic were they made available through legalities.

Thank you.

Olivia Lunsford  
[oliviaklunsford@gmail.com](mailto:oliviaklunsford@gmail.com)

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Mary Burtness <mcburtness@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 4:02 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please support the passage of HB 91 to include a full scope of services to be provided by trained Natropaths. I have gone to several in the past and they are competent and provide another option for well rounded medical care.

Thank you for your time  
Mary C. Burtness

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Ann Stone <queenmother.stone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 4:58 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB92

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I support allowing naturopathic doctors to have prescribing authority and the ability to perform simple in-house procedures. I require a doctor to regularly monitor my nutrition after having my stomach removed but I must visit a second doctor to renew my thyroid medication each year even though I have required it for 25 years. This requires a second expense which does not seem equitable.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stone

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Ann Stone

I will grow where I am planted

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Candy <candace\_carroll@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 5:23 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Is support this bill and extending role of naturopaths Thank you Candace Carroll Sent from my iPhone



## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** sarah herrema <sarahgenevieve1979@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 5:47 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,  
I support HB91 because Natural Medicine is better for my body than pharmacy drugs. My Naturopathic doctor healed my body better than any other doctor.

Thank You,

Sarah Herrema

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Ernest K. Andrew <cen52124@centurytel.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 9:13 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** I support HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Honorable Committee members,

As an Alaskan resident I would like to voice my support for HB 91, which would empower Alaska's fine Naturopaths the opportunities to employ additional modalities when serving patients. I, for one, would benefit if my Naturopathic Doctor were allowed to prescribe treatments which are currently not allowed.

My Naturopath has enabled me to heal from a chronic condition that conventional medicine had given up on. Other patients could benefit from both natural or prescription family planning (to include placement and removal of certain devices), first aid, hospice and palliative care, etc. If I were in an end-of-life situation I would appreciate the choice of having a Naturopath on my team.

Naturopaths sit at the unique interface of conventional and alternative medicine, able to diagnose conditions but unable to employ all the tools they need to enable healing. HB91 would help correct that situation. Your committee has the opportunity to help correct this injustice.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest "Kelley" Andrew

Eielson AFB, AK

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Gretchen Murphy <gretmurphy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 8:50 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I have relied on naturopathic medical care in Alaska for many years. I have significant allergies that require specialized care and we do not have an M.D. in Fairbanks that knows how to treat me. I rely on and appreciate the quality care from naturopaths.

Please support HB 91.

Gretchen Murphy

~~3804 Webb Drive~~

Fairbanks ~~99709~~

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Steve Wengelewski <wengelewski@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2019 9:43 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I support HB 91 because I believe that the care I received from my naturopath is second to none and I truly feel that he addressed my concerns as well as any conventional practitioner that I have ever been to. Unfortunately I have been forced to seek other care because of his inability to prescribe something as simple as daily thyroid medication. I look forward to the passage of HB 91 so I can reestablish care with him.

Sent from my iPhone

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Brian & Lisa Martsolf <blmartsolf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 10:49 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I support a full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska! I've been under the care of naturopaths for almost 20 years, they are my primary care providers. Restricting their scope of practice is not good for the patients and places huge limitations of the care I can receive. I find ND's to be more informed and better trained than any MD I've seen and fully support any legislation that helps promote the wellness of all patients!

Lisa Martsolf  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Elisabeth Murray <biss1998@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I want to say I support HB91 because I believe it is essential to have an alternative to mainstream healthcare, especially in my small town of Fairbanks, AK. I struggled with chronic issues like sinus infections, sore throats and after being treated with dozens of antibiotics over a few years by our urgent care centers and doctors that resulted in a very suppressed immune system, I went to our local center for natural medicine and saw a naturopath who used natural supplements to help my body heal from the inside and help me stay healthy, not just giving me a prescription to help with symptoms. I am very thankful for this valuable resource and I fully support HB91. Thank you for your time!

Elisabeth Murray

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** trish warner <19rachel76@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** jim  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it may Concern,

I support HB91 because, for the last 5 years, I have been using the services and expert knowledge base of a local Naturopath here in Fairbanks, Alaska. He has been very helpful in reducing my physical problems, referring me quickly to more detailed diagnosis options and specific medical professionals, and, most importantly, has been way more accessible than ANY of the health care providers I have been associated with for the last 20 years. Through his help, I have been exposed to many more options for my health and wellbeing than ever before, and because of that, I feel I am in better shape than I have been, medically, in a long time.

Please help these well trained group of people practice their craft to the best of their ability, using all the possibilities available to them throughout the rest of the Country. This will, in tern, help the residents of our state to have access to a greater number of options in their medical care.

Thank You for your consideration,  
James Warner

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** plb@nym.hush.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2019 7:58 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Labor and Commerce:

Re: HB 91

**I support HB 91.**

**Naturopaths should be able to practice to the full extent and scope of their training as physicians.** I have visited schools and studied the curriculum. I have compared naturopathic curriculum with that of medical schools. Both share the same science curriculum of the first two years. Beyond that, focus pertains to the respective degrees. Students of naturopathy are rigorously trained as medical students. In addition, they are thorough. They are trained to spend time to get to know the patient and the many facets that have created the ill condition.

Naturopaths are prepared to honor the human body by using treatment plans that assist in the healing process, and not to interfere where the body can manage. Medical physicians rely on pharmaceuticals, as per their training. It is a matter of philosophy. Physicians have chosen their fields. Patients likewise are to be able to choose physicians who match their own philosophies of treatment plans. This is freedom to be respected.

I have been a patient of interns at a naturopathy school. My primary care physician has been a naturopath for the decades that they have been licensed in this State. It has been disappointing to have Naturopathic Physicians lose their full scope of practice and status of "physician" in 2011. This has interfered with my care by a naturopath. I am glad that the scope of practice is being considered again.

I view naturopaths as physicians. **Naturopaths should have the status of "physician."** Their rigorous training certainly reflects that of a physician.

Further, **naturopaths should have rights to work in the hospitals.** I have not been happy under the care of the narrow focus of medical physicians. There is no sensible reason that naturopath physicians and medical physicians not work side by side in a clinic or hospital on **equal status**. Each bring valuable knowledge and skill to a case. Together, the patient could have remarkable care.

Consider these **additions to this Bill**.

Support HB 91.

Mari Eikeland

Fairbanks



## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Vince Meurlott <vince@realgoodhome.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 21, 2019 9:41 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please support this bill. Our Naturopathic doctors are very valuable and their training should be recognized for the ability to serve.

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Best,  
Vince Meurlott  
Meurlott Consulting Inc  
~~506 Arctic Circle~~  
Fairbanks, Alaska ~~99701~~  
website: [meurlott.com](http://meurlott.com)  
~~Phone (907) 578-4663~~

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Bill Kopplin <bkopplin@mosquitonet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 9:36 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** support HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I support HB 91 to give Naturopathic doctors more options to help us as patients. I live outside of Fairbanks and have been seeing Naturopathic doctors for many years. I am very pleased with the help I have received from them over the years. I feel this type of doctor is necessary.

I encourage you to pass HB91.

Thank you.

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Bill Kopplin

If you can not explain it simply, you do not understand it well enough. (Albert Einstein 1951)

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## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Raina Douglass <ljc120802@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, I support HB91 in full. I currently see a naturopathic doctor and have found that he is far superior to standard doctors with looking at my medical history from a whole person perspective. He takes into account my mental state as well as my physical. He also concentrates on the minimalist perspective in that he doesn't try to send me for major medical when a simple diet change will suffice. He brings my health back to the basics, diet and exercise, and doesn't try to over medicate me or refer me to someone who would. I firmly believe that our environment and our culture is causing the obesity crisis and I know this because I am considered 'morbidly obese'. I do not want major medical like gastric bypasses so I've gone to a naturopath to educate me on nutrition and exercise. However, there are other minor procedures that I would like to have my naturopath be able to perform if necessary. I do not like seeing multiple doctors for different things and I would like to see naturopaths become more like the 'family doctor' that can do multiple services.

Thank you,  
Raina Collins

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Marjie Richards <marjierichards@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 2:54 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support HB91 because I would like my Naturopathic Doctor to be able to prescribe my thyroid medicine and give me my flu shot, saving me having to go to other providers for these things. My employee insurance covers visits with the Naturopath, so it makes sense that she have these rights. She listens to me and I appreciate her holistic approach. Often the thing I need most is massage or acupuncture and she can prescribe these things for me. Time to add the other things she's been trained to do to her practice.  
Thank you for listening.

Marjorie Richards

  
Fairbanks, AK

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Michelle Denney <shickie0207@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 9:17 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support Alaska bill HB91 giving Alaska's naturopaths a full scope of practice, including prescribing rights. My primary physician has been a naturopath doctor for the past 20 years. She has been able to assist me with a multitude of issue over the years and the one unfortunate issue is when I need an antibiotic of something she has complete ability to address but can not due to scope of an NP, I have to be sent to an MD. On two occasions my visit to an MD has not valued my NP input and prescribed something I could not take. The process would be more efficient and economical if my NP could have the same prescribing rights and scope as an MD. Her training is just as intensive and I've found her continuing education training is more complete then any MD I've been too.

Regards,

Michelle Denney

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Sheryl Chriest <glacierwoman17@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Legislators,

I support HB91 as my family has been using a naturopath for years as our primary physician. Please allow my doctor to practice fully including prescriptions as I have to go in to a walk in clinic to see a nurse practitioner to get my inhaler refilled because my doctor is unable to write the prescription. She has been instrumental in helping me achieve health and live the healthy lifestyle my husband and I choose living in Eagle River ! Thank you so much,  
Sheryl Chriest

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Abigail Brown <am84brown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2019 8:56 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** aknaturopaths@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I support SB91 because our experience with our family ND has been exceptional. She always educates me on the options available to my family, but if we decide medications are the best plan I have to set up an appointment with an MD. SB91 would cut out extra doctors appointments.

Warmly,

Abby Brown

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Paula Williams <p0williams@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2019 2:46 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** aknaturopaths@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Chair Kito and honorable members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I fully support HB 91 giving naturopaths a full scope of practice. My physician is Dr. Cima Pillsbury, N.D. In the past few years, besides annual exams and routine treatment for colds, and other common maladies, I suffered a herniated disc at L4-L5. Dr. Pillsbury treated me with acupuncture, exercise, and gabapentin. I am so grateful for her treatment as I was finally able to sleep for longer than a couple of hours a night. It took about six months to recover, but her treatment was essential to my recovery.

I choose to go to an ND rather than an MD because the trust most allopathic practitioners put in drugs and surgery makes me nervous. I would like to try supplements, herbs and dietary changes before drugs or surgery. But, I am not a person who believes that herbs or "natural" foods will cure cancer or other very serious illnesses or procedures for which I would go to an allopathic doctor (and have on Dr. Pillsbury's recommendation).

I would like Dr. Pillsbury to have prescribing privileges as well as be able to provide me with minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraception placement.

I encourage you to pass this bill out of committee with a recommendation that it be passed by the full legislature. It will increase the freedom of Alaskans to choose their medical providers.

Thank you for your time,

Paula Williams

Paula Williams  
~~1216 Chabotree St~~  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
[p0williams@icloud.com](mailto:p0williams@icloud.com)



April 30, 2019

REGARDING HB 91

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have had the pleasure to work with and collaborate with many of the naturopathic physicians in Fairbanks, Alaska over the past 25 years. Naturopathic physicians are professionally trained and bound to the same high standard that MDs and DOs are bound. Our shared primary goal is to alleviate pain and suffering. Prevention of pain and suffering is perhaps more important than aggressive medical intervention. It is my impression that naturopathic physicians place more emphasis on prevention than their medical counterparts. Be that as it may, sometimes prevention isn't possible and intervention with medications and/or procedures is necessary. Every MD/DO does not have the training to prescribe every medication possible. Every MD/DO does not have the training/skills to perform every procedure. As professionals (allopaths) MD, (osteopaths)DO, and (naturopaths)ND have overlapping skills and knowledge. All healthcare professionals are bound to practice in a safe and accountable manner.

Allowing naturopathic physicians to practice to the level of their training would be a benefit to the citizens of Alaska. The argument that naturopathic physicians would be endangering the general public if they were to have prescription capabilities, or the ability to perform procedures is misleading. Any health care profession has the potential to do harm. Professional ethics should mandate the scope of an individual's practice or application of health care skills and knowledge. Naturopaths are no more likely to do brain surgery in their offices or prescribe lethal medications than I am.

It is of note that the state is always going to have to police individuals and protect the general public. A quick Google search would reveal that there are a number of MDs and DOs who get disciplined and need to be stopped from doing harm. Checks and balances are in place and work.

The general public is rightfully demanding a more holistic approach to their health care. There is irony in the fact that in the State of Alaska an adult can purchase marijuana from a dispensary, alcohol, tobacco, and dangerous over the counter medications from a grocery store. These drugs are far more dangerous than most of the medications that naturopathic physicians would potentially prescribe.

Please consider HB 91 very carefully and make the right decision.

Respectfully,

Jon F. Lieberman, MD GENERAL SURGEON

Karen Gonne'-Harrell

PO Box 201795

Anchorage, AK 99520

TO: Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the House Labor and commerce Committee:

My name is Karen Gonne'-Harrell and I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 91, which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

Health care costs in Alaska are among the highest in the country. This places a tremendous burden on Alaskan families, creates a drag on the overall economy, and is one of the key drivers for government spending. Although difficult to address completely, HB91 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in HB91 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given the unique healthcare challenges in Alaska, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will not only benefit me as a consumer, but will benefit the state overall by increasing competition and helping to drive down healthcare costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative healthcare, this bill –if passed– will help decrease the need for expensive healthcare for Alaskans well into the future.

An example of how the current law affects me personally is the inability for my Naturopath to prescribe my Thyroid medication. She is allowed to do all the testing to determine the need for the medication, but then I am forced to meet with a Nurse Practitioner whom I will not see for any other reason. This results in the Nurse making me her client and duplicating the office visit procedures. It also results in a double billing for me as insurance sees it as two separate visits. My cost is now \$45.00 a visit and I am allowed only 6 visits per year. Seeing the Nurse and the Doctor on the same day twice a year leaves me only two visits for all other medical issues. This is also true on the occasions that antibiotics are required. This will also be an issue when I am required to use Medicare as they will not recognize my Doctor and I will either pay out of pocket or see a Doctor that will not meet my needs.

I have used Naturopaths since 1987. My son was having serious ear infections that I believed were due to food allergies. The medical doctors refused to consider allergies and insisted on putting tubes in his ears. They were also prescribing 30 day rounds of antibiotics. I declined the tubes and sought out alternatives. The Naturopath took my son off of wheat and dairy. Within a week his color was returning and he went 11 months without an ear infection. Seeing his dramatic recovery, my mother, sister and I got tested. We all discovered allergies to wheat. They were relieved of lifelong eczema and rashes. I was relieved of multiple GI and respiratory issues. The savings in time and money due to the Naturopath's approach have been incalculable. Their approach to whole person wellness instead of treating symptoms has resulted in fewer and fewer visits per year for my whole family.

Now my grandson is benefitting from the focus on health. Knowing the history of allergies, my grandson is wheat and dairy free. Other than a few minor colds, he is healthy. Without the intervention of the Naturopaths, I am sure we would all be suffering unnecessarily from undiagnosed food allergies.

Please do through nonbiased research on this very important issue. Denying equal access to alternative medicine is creating a financial burden on those who choose to use something other than the traditional medical model. It can also force people to use medicine and providers they do not want to use.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB91, and for taking one step towards better healthcare in our great state.

Sincerely,



Karen Gonne'-Harrell

~~007-0000000~~  
KarenGH1@hotmail.com

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Marah Gotcsik <marah.gotcsik@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:21 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** aknaturopaths@gmail.com; erin@doryassociates.com  
**Subject:** HB91 - MD support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

I am an allopathic pediatrician who lives in Anchorage (Zip Code 99508). I am writing this email in strong support of Naturopathic Doctors being granted prescribing rights through HB91.

After having learned about the robust primary care curriculum in naturopathic medical school, I chose to see a ND for my primary care.

In my professional practice I have received referrals from NDs and I also refer patients to NDs.

I have been consistently impressed by the depth of knowledge and thoughtful patient care provided by all NDs I have worked with since moving to Alaska nearly eight years ago.

- NDs have appropriate training for prescribing privileges as outlined in HB91 and are an important part of the healthcare team.
- I strongly believe that the way forward in our health care system is for providers across different training backgrounds to work collaboratively. Current prescribing restrictions work to exclude NDs from the healthcare team, thus actively working against this ideal.
- By not allowing prescribing privileges, our state is adding cost and complexity to the health care system. For example, a child seen for a well child check at a NDs office must currently go to another clinic to get vaccines as the ND cannot order and administer vaccines in their office which can be a significant barrier.

Please do not hesitate to contact with me with any questions or for clarification.

This is now the third time in the past seven years I have written in support of bills to expand ND scope of practice. I strongly encourage you to follow the lead of multiple other states and give NDs the the broadened scope of practice that allows them to work at the level of their training.

Marah Gotcsik, MD  
Anchorage, AK

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Christine Sagan <christine@vitaeheal.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:13 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,  
I am in support of HB91. My family has used naturopathic doctors in this town for years and have received excellent, thorough care. The bill would allow for them to use their full scope of knowledge and give us more doctors to access for our families needs. I live in Anchorage, AK x 22 yrs.

Christine Sagan, APRN

 [www.vitaeheal.com](http://www.vitaeheal.com)



## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Stephanie Quinn-Davidson <stephqd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 01, 2019 12:26 PM  
**To:** Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Joshua Revak; Rep. David Talerico  
**Cc:** Rep. Jennifer Johnston  
**Subject:** Support for HB 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I firmly believe that naturopathic physicians in Alaska should have the ability to perform minor procedures, such as stitches and biopsies, and issue vitamins, minerals, and non-controlled substance prescriptions medications, including antibiotics. They have the education and training to perform these duties and this bill would bring the scope of their practice more in line with that extensive education and training. These types of procedures and duties are already authorized in many other states. I also believe that by allowing naturopathic physicians to perform these additional functions will increase affordable access to healthcare in Alaska - a critical concern for our state currently.

I want to share my personal story with you on why I choose to see a naturopathic physician for my medical needs as it will provide a good background and perspective on why I support this bill so strongly and want you to take action to support this bill this legislative session.

A few years ago, I was experiencing intense fatigue. I had a hard time staying awake throughout the day and would count down the hours until I could go to bed each night. I saw my allopathic family doctor (an MD) at the time who did a test for mono, which came back negative. She then ordered a full blood panel and said all of my numbers for the various indices were within normal ranges. Results of my mono test and blood panel were never discussed with me in person; I was delivered the news over the phone by her technician/assistant. When I asked follow-up questions about what could be going on and asked to speak with the doctor, the assistant would take the question and then call me back after speaking with the doctor. Her answers were not satisfactory or complete and it was difficult to have a follow-up dialogue in this manner. I never was able to speak to the doctor directly, so I scheduled another appointment (which cost me and my insurance additional money) so I could get my questions answered in person. Both times I met with this doctor, she was rushed, did not help explain what could potentially be going on with my body, and our office visit times were less than 10 minutes each.

On this second visit, because I was still experiencing fatigue and my mono and blood panel tests were not unusual to her, she asked if I had feelings of depression and I said "no, I'm a happy person, just tired." She ruled out seasonal affective disorder as it was spring time and I was spending good amounts of time outdoors and getting sunshine. She decided to prescribe me a common, but fairly strong anti-depressant and said "sometimes we all just need a little pick-me-up." She performed no psychological analysis or asked further questions about my mental health. She wrote me a multi-month prescription for the anti-depressant.

I filled the prescription, which included instructions to slowly ramp up my dosage and then when coming off of it, slowly ramp it down for risk of withdrawal symptoms. Concerned, I decided to read a bit more about the medication. It turns out that one of the potential side effects was seizures (up to a 10% chance), though this was not discussed with me by the doctor who prescribed it. I felt unsure about taking the medication, but I was so desperate to stop the fatigue. Thankfully, my partner was also concerned about me taking a medication that had these kinds of precautions and potential side-effects, especially as just a "pick-me-up." She insisted that I seek another opinion and suggested I visit a naturopathic physician.

When I visited the naturopathic physician, she met with me for 90 minutes. The cost for that appointment was the same as one 10 minute appointment with the allopathic doctor. We discussed at length my lifestyle and diet. She looked at the blood panel results and noticed that, while my numbers were all within ranges, a few of them were at the very edge of the low end of the range. One of those was glucose. She asked if I had eaten breakfast before the blood panel, which I had. This raised a red flag for her, as my glucose should not have been that low after a full meal. The allopathic doctor had never considered these lower numbers or what could be causing them as long as they were within the recommended range.

Long story short, my naturopathic physician suggested some vitamins to take (which I had to purchase at Natural Pantry) and recommended that I cut out all refined sugar from my diet for a couple of weeks.

Within a week, I had my energy back and was my old self again. While talking about my diet and typical day, the naturopathic physician had noticed that I was eating a little bit of sugar with almost every meal or small amounts of sugar as snacks throughout the day. She suspected that the frequent spike in my blood sugar was producing an equal spike in insulin production in my body numerous times a day. She determined that this up and down dance between glucose and insulin was likely tiring my body out. And she was right.

Her thoroughness, attention, willingness to dig deeper, and training to really look at the body holistically, helped keep me off an anti-depressant with potentially disturbing side-effects and addictive properties. She also addressed the root of the problem, rather than the symptoms. Had I taken the prescription from the allopathic doctor, I would have never addressed the issue of these sugar spikes and perhaps would have never recovered from the fatigue, all while taking an addictive drug.

I continue to see this naturopathic physician and am truly impressed with her knowledge, experience, and training. She has, by far, been the best and most thorough physician I have ever been treated by. She has proven a mastery of the human body and how our different systems work together. She explains things in detail and in a way that I can understand. She responds directly to messages that I leave with her office if I have additional questions after the appointment. She knows the limits of naturopathic remedies and will readily recommend when I need to seek more allopathic medications or treatment, such as antibiotics. Unfortunately, the one time I needed antibiotics, she was unable to prescribe it to me directly and I had to see another doctor that she recommended - costing me and my insurance additional money for the additional appointment. At the same time, the naturopathic remedies she has recommended to me have helped keep unnecessary controlled substances out of my body when I don't really need them and have helped address the root of my problems and illnesses, rather than the symptoms.

I urge you to support HB 91. It will align the scope of practice for naturopaths with the extensive education and training they have received, will provide more affordable healthcare overall, and will make naturopathic medicine more accessible to more people.

I am a healthier and more informed person today because I see a naturopathic physician. This bill could make that a possibility for others.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson

4110 W. [REDACTED] Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99517

907-404-8888

Stephanie Quinn-Davidson (she/her/hers)

Anchorage, Alaska

[stephqd@gmail.com](mailto:stephqd@gmail.com)

~~SCAD logo~~



## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Cameron O'Connell <drcameronoconnell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 01, 2019 6:50 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce; erin@doryassociates.com; Erin Shine; Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians  
**Subject:** House Bill 91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing in support of House Bill 91 and I am a naturopathic doctor. Born and raised in Alaska, I hoped to come back to the state, once I had finished my medical training and residency, to set up a practice and give back to the greater Anchorage community.

This decision was not easy. My residency was in California and, as such, I had prescription rights. Having to give up the ability to do something as simple as put my patient's on levothyroxine for hypothyroidism, made my move back to Alaska a much more difficult decision than it should have been.

A few examples of how this limited scope of practice (a.k.a. not having access to basic prescription rights) has impacted my ability to provide care:

1. This week I had a mother of two come into my office. She had fears about vaccinations and, subsequently, had not vaccinated her children. I alleviated those fears and she agreed to get her children vaccinated. However, I was unable to write a prescription or provide any vaccination in the office. An opportunity was missed to give treatment and this, from a public health perspective, is a poor outcome.
2. I had a patient with a lower respiratory infection come into my office this week as well. I provided the naturopathic standard of care including informing the patient of when she would need to progress from conservative treatment to pharmaceuticals. The patient was discouraged to find that she would have to pay another large fee to go to urgent care or another provider to receive basic antibiotic therapy if the need arose.

In closing, please consider updating our bill to a more modern scope that lets us utilize all of our training. The statute governing my profession was passed in 1987. I was born in 1982. I have grown a lot in 31 years and so should our legislation.

Dr. Cameron O'Connell

Dear Co Chairs LeDoux and Wool and the honorable members of the house labor and commerce.

My name is Abby Laing, I'm a lifelong Alaskan and currently live in Anchorage. I'm a naturopathic doctor, clinic/small business owner, employer, and president of the naturopathic association. I used to be a boat captain, fisherman, freight ship operator. I love Alaska and I love Alaskans.

Growing up I suffered from a lot of gut issues. The doctors that my parents took me to over and over again tried treating symptoms, unsuccessfully, and mostly blamed my issues on stress or anxiety. I was 5 and lived with my married and happy parents, a loving older brother, and in a child's paradise of 5 acres overlooking 5 glaciers. I knew from a young age that the conventional medical system of treating symptoms did not really work for me or a lot things, like gut issues. I loved my community like I loved my family and wanted them to be as happy and healthy as possible. That's when I decided I wanted to be a doctor. I struggled with the idea of this though. Doctors, as I'd known them had never really helped me. When I discovered what a naturopathic doctor was- someone who could teach me how to eat better, live better, treat the real issues rather than just the symptoms, I was sold- that's what I wanted to be.

I dreamed of moving back home, helping my community. Starting a clinic with all kinds of health care providers- we would work in collaboration, each bringing our own strengths to the table and the patients could pick what worked best for them.

I went to medical school alongside my partner. I was becoming an ND while he an MD. We had very similar first 2 years of school. In the second 2 years he was doing his clinical rotations to decide what specialty he would go in to- dermatology, radiology, pediatrics, general surgery, psychiatry... I did clinical rotations all in naturopathic family practice (and some in allopathic family practice) as well as additional classroom work in treatment modalities (nutrition, counseling, botanical medicine, physiotherapy, etc). During this time, I worked in a homeless clinic that served mostly youth on the streets of Portland- we worked alongside MDs and NDs. I was prescribing medication as required and per my training.

When I finally graduated after 4 years of undergraduate training, 4 years of medical school, the 2 step board exams each lasting 3 full days, then a 1-year residency, I moved back home to Alaska. I could no longer prescribe medication, yet the physician assistants and nurse practitioners had a full prescriptive scope, including all controlled substances despite less training than I had just completed. I thought this made sense- we have a shortage of primary care and we need all the providers we can get. Due to the then accepted interpretation of the statutes I was able to do injection vitamins and minerals as well as some botanical medicines that required a prescription.

Everything changed again in 2014 when, in spite of over 3000 letter of opposition, regulatory changes went in to effect that limited my scope of practice so that even sterile water was off limits.

I have continued to thrive here in my home state. I started a clinic after 6 years working under other providers, I became an employer and hired an amazing integrative team, I built a strong patient base and it takes weeks to get in to see me. I continue to work in collaboration with many other great providers in this state: medical doctors, nurse practitioners, physician

assistants, counselors, physical therapists, etc. They refer to me and I to them- we work better together. I continue to refer my loyal and loving patients to providers with less training than I have when they need a prescription. I hope they go despite the added cost and time for them. I do this for the love of Alaska, my profession, and my people. It gets me down a lot- I want to leave this state like so many others, to move somewhere where NDs can practice to the full scope of their training. Where I can renew a routine prescription for someone, provide a vaccination to help public health, give antibiotics to a kid who needs them, or wean someone down off blood pressure and cholesterol meds as they lose weight and get healthy. Maybe to one of the states that has recently passed regulation and prescription for NDs as this is the national trend.

I watch others leave Alaska and I can't blame them. I thought that I could go through this process and educate people on my training, on the safety records, on what other states have done successfully and things would change. But you see there are only 46 of us, 54 fewer than there were just 3 years ago. On the other hand, there is a medical lobby that is thousands of members strong which has decided to oppose this bill for what I can only suspect are largely financial reasons. I have attempted to reach out to the Alaska Medical Association to discuss our position on this bill but I have been met with silence. I wrote a letter to the Alaska Medical Association, addressing each concern raised over the last 12 years of this journey head on. This letter was presented by a well-known and respected member in the medical community. They never bothered to respond.

I urge you to consider this bill. We will not win with numbers, there are just not enough of us and as regulations get tighter and tighter there will be fewer. That is a loss of primary care doctors here, ready, and willing to help fill the void that our community faces. I urge you to look at the documents that we have provided and think about what is best for the people of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Abby Laing

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** JaRock Latta <latta@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 7:52 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please support Natural Medicine in Eagle River, Alaska. I use acupuncture for pain and it is a llife saver.

Rocky Latta  
Eagle River, Alaska

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Suzette Mailloux <dr.suzette.mailloux@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 9:41 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Erin Harrington; Erin Shine; Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians  
**Subject:** HB 91 support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear House Labor and Commerce,

I am writing asking you to support HB 91 to modernize scope of practice for ND's. I was born and raised in Fairbanks and completed my undergraduate degree in biology and chemistry at UAF. I left to attend a 4 year doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine in Oregon. In Oregon (and in most other states that grant licensure) ND's have the full scope of practice of a primary care physician. I was trained and completed my internship with the ability to write for prescription medications, complete minor surgery including IUD placement, suturing, and mole removal. This full scope of practice allowed me to provide care both in small family practice clinics and in clinics for underserved populations such as homeless youth. After completing this training I had a job offer in Fairbanks but it was a very hard decision to move back to AK knowing I would not be able practice medicine the way I had been trained. However, my husband and I love Fairbanks and plan to stay long term and continue to raise our children here.

I now work at the Holistic Medical Clinic in Fairbanks and also work within the outpatient treatment program for addiction at Turning Point Counseling Services. My practice focuses on women's health and mental health. On a weekly basis I and my patients are affected by my extremely limited scope of practice in AK. This week I had to refer a young woman to a gynecologist after completing her annual exam so she could have her IUD removed and replaced. While practicing in Oregon this is a service I provided regularly and competently.

Please look closely at the information we have provided on our training and record of safety both within Alaska and nationally. We are a group of skilled providers that can benefit Alaskans with the ability to practice to the full extent of our training.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Suzette Mailloux

--  
Suzette Mailloux ND  
Holistic Medical Clinic

222  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-451-2222 / 907-451-2222 7168

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Rachel Lescher <rachelklescher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB91

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB91 because it would allow Naturopathic Doctors the ability to provide more comprehensive care for their patients. Naturopathic doctors are trained in the diagnosis, prevention, and management of acute and chronic illnesses, and HB91 permits them to provide the type of high quality care for which they are trained without unnecessary restrictions. Removing these restrictions allows patients to access the quality healthcare they need without additional burdensome costs associated with duplicate appointments. I have worked with Naturopathic Doctors professionally, and not only has this collaboration improved the care of our mutual patients, but I have also learned ways to improve my own medical practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Lescher, MD  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians <aknaturopaths@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 4:06 PM  
**To:** Erin Shine  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 91

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ronnie Boyle <[boyler9063@gmail.com](mailto:boyler9063@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sat, Apr 20, 2019 at 7:39 AM  
**Subject:** HB 91  
**To:** <[aknaturopaths@gmail.com](mailto:aknaturopaths@gmail.com)>

I support this bill as it gives our community additional resources for our care. These professionals that i have seen over the years take much more time to hear my needs and work with me than most other clinics or doctors I've seen in Fairbanks. I also see this additional level of care a time saver. Once I have my relationship with my naturopathic doctor I don't want to have to hop over to another facility for simple and easy or established procedures that all medical professionals are capable of handling.

Thank you  
Ronnie Boyle  
Fairbanks Akaka

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**Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians**  
[www.akanp.org](http://www.akanp.org)

Abby Laing, ND - President  
Daniel J Young, ND, LAc - Vice President  
Suzette Mailloux, ND - Secretary  
Cameron O'Connell, ND - Treasurer

## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians <aknaturopaths@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 4:06 PM  
**To:** Erin Shine  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB91– Brenna Bigelow

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Brenna Rollman <[brenna.rollman@gmail.com](mailto:brenna.rollman@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sat, Apr 27, 2019 at 1:32 PM  
**Subject:** HB91– Brenna Bigelow  
**To:**  
**Cc:** <[aknaturopaths@gmail.com](mailto:aknaturopaths@gmail.com)>

- I support HB91 because it allows me and my family to get great care from qualified naturopaths. I have PCOS and a naturopath is my only form of care( I don't have another doctor). I haven't started a family yet but I want to take them to a naturopath for shots or whatever small prescription they need. I live in Eagle River with my husband Aaron. Thank you for reading!

-Brenna Bigelow

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**Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians**  
[www.akanp.org](http://www.akanp.org)

Abby Laing, ND - President  
Daniel J Young, ND, LAc - Vice President  
Suzette Mailloux, ND - Secretary  
Cameron O'Connell, ND - Treasurer



## Ashley Strauch

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**From:** Dr Grove <nhcgrove@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2019 5:34 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Erin Harrington; Erin Shine  
**Subject:** Why HB 91 matters to Alaskans

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Adam Grove and I am a naturopath with 17 years of practicing in Alaska. I am asking you to support HB 91 because it will enhance the safety of my patients and expand my ability to help a growing group of Alaskans who are not being served by other providers.

I first came to Alaska in 1985 in an old Saab with the girl who became my wife and who was from Anchorage. I worked for a summer as a bicycle mechanic and then went off to a 13 year stint in the United States Air Force. I had a great career in the military to fulfill my dream of becoming a physician. I went to Naturopathic Medical School at Bastyr University in Seattle and returned to practice in Anchorage in 2002. After two years of mentorship at one of Alaska's oldest Naturopathic Practices, I became a partner for 10 years before starting my own practice.

After 17 years of practicing Naturopathic Medicine, I have become, the sole medical expert in treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the state. This has kept me very busy as Alaska has the highest rate of TBI of any other state in the nation. When I started on this path which involved a great deal of additional advanced education and training, we had virtually no TBI services in this state. I do struggle with recruiting other Naturopaths to help with this task of treating Alaskans with TBIs because many potential candidates see our scope of practice as being too narrow and certainly not in keeping with their level of education. This is unfortunate as I am maxed out with my own patient case load.

As a Naturopath, I am very well equipped to meet the complex needs of the TBI population. I am able to provide services for them which other providers cannot or are not willing to. These patients are very complex, each case is very unique and treatment can be intense and can take a long time. Because of my education with many hands on hours in rotations through counseling, nutrition and patient care from an urban clinic to an integrated clinic for adolescents living on the street, I have the skills and the tools which MDs/DOs do not have, to meet the complex needs of the TBI patient. I have the ability to spend 60-90 minutes with each patient for each visit and to address their complex medical needs from neurological issues, to sleep disturbance, to nutritional counseling and psychological challenges. Because of my training which also included pediatrics both in classroom learning and in clinical rotations, I also treat children.

A missing piece of my practice is the ability to manage the prescriptive medications my patients are on. Patients with TBI are very unique and other providers often prescribe medications which are well intentioned but actually harmful for their injured brains. Hardly a week goes by in which I am not trying to intervene to withdraw or change a prescription medication which is harming one of my TBI patients. If I had even limited prescriptive rights, I would be better able to manage these cases efficiently and effectively for patient safety.

When I realized that working one-on-one with patients was not going to make much of a dent in the brain injury problem in Alaska, I joined and eventually became director of the board for the Alaska Brain Injury Network where I served for 6 years. In that time, I helped direct this small non-profit to become a leader in brain injury education and services. We managed to secure state and federal grants to expand what was offered in this state for those with TBI and we began training new providers. We also started the Brain Injury Outreach Clinic model which, to this day, is taking experts in TBI to villages all over the state to educate the local providers and public about brain injury and provide TBI clinics to identify, assess and treat those with TBI in these far flung communities. As a result, people with TBI from all over this state are getting help with their injuries and many are returning to more normal lives.

To this day, I continue to run what is largely a TBI oriented clinic. I refer to other providers all over the state and nation from MDs and DOs, to PTs and OTs, to psychiatrists and counselors and dentists and eye doctors. I coordinate care for my patients with social service agencies, attorneys and outside clinics. I am actively working with other providers to increase the skills we have locally for meeting this overwhelming public health problem of TBI. I provide training to many different groups from the State administrative level to the boots on the ground service agencies to corporations interested in workplace safety.

I am supporting HB 91 because it will help me do the best job I can for my patient population which is extremely underserved. I have, with a lot of hard work, become an expert in TBI care in a state where there are no other such providers. Every day, in my office, I am helping people return to functional lives who would otherwise be lost and forgotten. HB 91 will help make my job easier and my hard work more successful. HB 91 will help change the lives of Alaskans living with TBI for the better.

Thank you for your consideration and for working for the better health of all Alaskans.

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Adam Grove, ND, CBIS

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