



Alaska State Legislature
Representative Jennifer Johnston – House District 28

February 14, 2020

Dear Chair Spohnholz,

Thank you for hearing House Bill 91 in the House Labor & Commerce Committee on February 12, 2020. Below you will find responses to the unanswered questions from the hearing.

Do Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) have the qualifications to prescribe medications? Are the pharmacology courses for NDs the same courses for Medical Doctors (MDs)?

Pharmacology is included in the standard training of all accredited naturopathic schools. Medical schools for MDs and NDs have moved to an educational system called "systems-based" learning where pharmacology training is wrapped into many subject areas. NDs have more than 140 hours of pharmacology training through both specific pharmacological coursework and systems-based coursework (e.g. cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, neurology). This training is equivalent to or exceeds that of other healthcare providers in Alaska who currently hold prescriptive privileges.

Do NDs receive training on medication interactions?

In addition to the systems-based pharmacology training, which includes medication interactions, NDs are also trained in herbal medicine and further understand the interactions between herbal medicine and pharmacological substances.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 91.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Johnston".

Representative Jennifer Johnston