

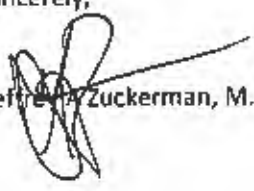
04/08/2019

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

From: Rob Downey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 10:14 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: AKANP; erin@doryassociates.com
Subject: HB91 Downey MD Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislators,

I wholeheartedly and without reservations support full scope of practice for Alaskan ND's.

I am a board certified family practice MD in Homer and am dual trained/certified in Functional Medicine, a close cousin to naturopathic medicine.

You will do a great service to Alaskans by empowering ND's to practice the full scope of their training. This will be safe, wise, well-received. The vitality of Alaskans will be more vibrant and healthcare dollars devoted to sickness will be saved.

Please do the right thing. It matters now more than ever.

Respectfully,

Rob Downey MD IFMCP

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

Ashley Strauch

From: Marah Gotcsik [REDACTED]
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

From: Rachel Lescher [REDACTED]
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

From: Jed Malan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 4:34 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; erin@doryassociates.com; aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Subject: House Bill 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jedidiah Malan, MD and have lived and worked in Fairbanks, AK for 10 years as a radiologist in this community. I have extensively worked with all of the Naturopathic physicians in this community and have come to understand their scope of practice and understanding of medicine during that time based on hundreds of professional conversations over the years. I believe that Naturopathic physicians should be allowed to practice their scope of medicine to the fullest degree, including, performing minor office procedures and prescribing medications, if they have been appropriately trained to do so, which the vast majority of Naturopathic physicians have the training to do.

In my personal experience, I have not seen ND physicians practice beyond their capabilities. They are conscientious and very knowledgeable about all forms of medicine. They know their limitations and refer patients to the appropriate providers when needed. Granting them the right to perform minor office procedures and prescribe medications would help their patients and prevent unnecessary health care costs by having to refer their patients on to an MD or DO physician. I have my own radiology practice in Fairbanks and have accepted orders from naturopathic physicians for over 8 years and have no concerns about their ability to interpret my reports and treat the patients appropriately.

I urge the House to approve Bill 91 and grant naturopathic physicians the ability to perform minor office procedures and prescribe medications as they deem appropriate.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Jedidiah Malan, MD
Medical Director, North Star Radiology (Fairbanks)

S Lynn Hornbein, MD
12008 W Skyline Dr
Eagle River, AK 99577

April 7, 2019

Re: Alaska House Bill 91

I am writing in support of establishing a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors (NDs) in Alaska, a scope that will allow them to provide the entire spectrum of services that they have been trained to provide as primary health care providers.

I have worked collaboratively with NDs for over 20 years. Their training and practice is complementary to allopathic medicine, benefiting our mutual patients.

I support NDs being able to provide prescriptions for common non-controlled medications for common conditions, and to prescribe and administer vitamins/supplements, such as vitamin B12. NDs should also be able to perform minor office procedures per their medical training.

During the years I have been a primary care provider, I have had a number of patients that benefitted from treatment by an ND, for conditions including hypertension, obesity, diabetes, depression and others. It has been very gratifying to see people learn to manage their health and to be able to stop taking prescription medications.

Access to primary care is an issue in every state, including Alaska. It is important that every trained primary health care provider be allowed to practice to their full scope of training. It is important that every person seeking primary care finds the provider that is right for them.

Thank you!

Lynn Hornbein, MD

4 April, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an orthopedic surgeon is acutely aware that we must cut the cost of medical care while maintaining the quality. Over the last 3 years, I have launched a program here in Alaska that tries to do this by optimizing patient care all through the process of going through total joint arthroplasty. First, patients must undergo adequate conservative treatment prior to scheduling and also optimize their medical condition.

If a patient that is overweight loses a significant amount of weight, much of their knee pain will decrease and they can continue being active without any significant risk. Also, the loss of weight will help with their diabetes and high blood pressure.

If patients fail non operative treatment, it is highly beneficial to get their body mass index, an indicator of obesity, to acceptable levels. With morbidly obese patients, they have up to forty times the complication rates of normal sized patients. This is true especially with hips. When placing the hip, surgeons have more difficulty placing implants in the correct position and adjusting the soft tissue tension. Wound complications

leading to infection are a disaster that can be avoided with weight loss.

For the benefit of your constituents, it is important to allow naturopathic primary care providers to participate in helping our patients optimize our health. I have had numerous patients sent over to Cameron O'Connell to manage obesity and she has excellent results. With her knowledge of healthy diet, she has worked diligently improve the well-being of my patients.

It would be helpful to allow them to have prescription rights to assist them in this worthy endeavor.

If you need medical care, I would highly recommend that you seek care at any naturopathic office. I have, and am very happy with my care.

Sincerely,

Doug A. Vermillion MD
Orthopedic Surgeon.



Snow Creek Medicine, LLC
711 Barrow Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

May 3, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a family physician writing to support HB 91 because we have a shortage of access to quality primary care in our community of Anchorage and in the state of Alaska. Naturopaths are trained professionals who deliver quality primary care. I have worked with Naturopathic physicians for years in Washington, Arizona and now Alaska. Their impeccable attention to detail and comprehensive assessment has been an asset to my practice and patients. In particular, Naturopathic physicians address chronic health conditions that are complex. Thank you for this opportunity to support this bill and advocate for fellow providers.

Sincerely,



Allison Keliher, MD

Ashley Strauch

From: Kate Finn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 9:32 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: PLEASE PASS HB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Legislators,

I am a Nurse Practitioner, working in Alaska since 1977. I have worked in Bethel, Dillingham, Barrow, Soldotna and now Homer, where i currently & happily make my home.

I use Naturopathy as my primary health care modality. Occasionally i will use and M.D. or an acupuncturist or a massage person, but mostly i prefer the comprehensive view of the human system with which Naturopaths view their clients. My experiences with my Naturopath have always been beneficial. Not only is the systemic view of health to my liking, but i also prefer, not only the herbal approach to acute issues, but also their focus on underlying dis-ease, needed to heal and sustain optimum health.

Naturopaths need the legislature of recognize the full scope of their training and grant Naturopaths the right to prescribe drugs as well as offer minor in-office procedures.

In short PLEASE PASS HB 91!

Thank You,
Kate Finn
[REDACTED]



February 24, 2020

Dear Members of the State of Alaska Legislature and Administration,

On behalf of the Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians, **it is my pleasure to express our support for HB.91.** Vermont switched from a formulary to open prescribing for NDs in 2016 primarily for cost savings. The state was spending considerable time and money [legislative cycle to update the naturopathic formulary, an expense not shared by all other physicians, since open prescribing doesn't demand constant re-evaluation by the government. Instead, all other prescribing practitioners are held to prescribing within their scope of training, thus decreasing the burden on the state's finances and time, especially important in our small state of just over 628,000 people, comparable to yours of just over 737,000.

Naturopathic physicians have been licensed in the state of Vermont since 1996. According to our open prescribing regulation (rule?), once an ND passes the extra NPLEX Pharmacology Exam, they are required to have a health practitioner with 5 years of open prescribing experience (MD, DO or ND) review their first 100 prescriptions or first year's worth of prescriptions (whichever is greater) and sign off on the prescriptions for safety and appropriateness, either approving or not approving. The safety record has been quite excellent with **zero pharmacological disciplinary actions and zero non-approved reviews of ND's prescriptions**, which you can verify at the Vermont Secretary of States' Office of Professional Regulations, by contacting Aprille Morrison (email is best: aprille.morrison@sec.state.vt.us)

The change for Vermont naturopathic physicians from a formulary to open prescribing rights within our scope of training has in no way manifested any of the fears put forth by some members of the medical establishment or community prior to licensure. In fact, **patients are now assured access to adequately trained natural health practitioners** who are also, importantly, the only providers routinely trained in drug/herb/nutrient interactions. Many medical doctors routinely consult with and refer to naturopathic doctors, as do NDs with MDs/DOs, and the enhanced collaboration further insures best practices and patient safety.

Finally, naturopathic physicians are trained to use the least invasive, safest, and least costly treatment approaches that are effective. This has allowed many thousands of Vermonters, who utilize ND care for mostly primary care services, to reduce their reliance on high cost prescription drugs and procedures, as the underlying causes for their chronic conditions are removed or improved via naturopathic care. Effective naturopathic care in the setting of **open prescribing rights has reduced prescription drug reliance and therefore costs** for patients, insurance companies, and institutions paying those insurance companies: Vermont businesses and the state.

We urge your thoughtful and favorable consideration on **HB.91**. Please do not hesitate to call or email with any further questions, email is best until March 2nd 2020 as I will be out of the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Green", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Joshua Green, ND

President, Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physician

VANP PO BOX 4351 Burlington, VT 05406

Personal cell: (802) 598-2244 Email: DrJoshuaDGreen@gmail.com

Ashley Strauch

From: Suzette Mailloux [REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99701

[REDACTED] 168

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

5/1/2019

Members of the House and Labor Committee,

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 patients 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, ND

Addendum 2/25/2020 - It was asked at the previous round of public testimony as to whether or not my residency training was overseen by medical doctors as well as naturopathic doctors. Yes, it was overseen by both types of providers. I had three medical doctors that I worked with as well as one naturopathic doctor. The claims that we are overseen by only naturopathic doctors are unwarranted and, from my own experience, it was not true.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians](#); [Erin Harrington](#); [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: House Bill 91
Date: Friday, May 3, 2019 8:08:54 AM

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 91. My name is Birgit Lenger and I am a naturopathic doctor. I have been providing healthcare to a wide variety of Alaskans for the past 17 years.

After graduating with a bachelor of science degree from the University of British Columbia, I attended Bastyr University in Seattle where I earned my naturopathic degree. My clinical rotations included the main Bastyr clinic in Wallingford, the 45th Street Clinic for homeless youth and the Redmond Community Clinic. While attending Bastyr I was taught minor surgery by Thomas Drost, MD, ND, FACS, a surgeon who had decided to further his allopathic medical training by also obtaining a degree in naturopathic medicine.

I am co-owner of the Natural Health Center in Anchorage where I have worked since 2001. I primarily serve patients from the Anchorage area but have also provided care for patients in Kodiak in addition to rural areas of Alaska. I have patients who travel to see me from as far north as Barrow and as far south as Ketchikan and everywhere in between. While the majority of the time I am able to care for my patients effectively with non-prescription therapies, there are situations that arise that require additional treatment, such as antibiotics for a full-blown urinary tract infection, or contraceptive care for a patient who has come in for her annual exam. Being able to write prescriptions for patients would reduce the need for additional medical visits, reduces medical costs, increase efficiency and allow for continuity of care.

The current restricted scope of practice for naturopathic doctors is a deterrent to providers considering establishing a practice in Alaska. Imagine having the education and training to perform primary care duties and upon arrival in Alaska part of your valuable toolbox is stripped and left behind.

Expanding our scope of practice to reflect our education and training would only benefit Alaskans. Thank you for helping naturopathic doctors to provide quality healthcare to our Alaskan patients. Thank you for supporting House Bill 91.

Sincerely,

Birgit Lenger, ND
Natural Health Center, LLC
3330 Eagle St. Anchorage, AK 99503

From: [Dr. Alana McLaughlin](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: erin@doryassociates.com; [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: HP91
Date: Friday, May 3, 2019 10:17:58 AM

Thank you for all the hours you spend to help Alaska the best place possible to live! My name is Alana McLaughlin, and I am a naturopathic doctor who earned a master's degree in neuroscience at University of Hartford before attending National University of Natural Medicine, and then transferring, due to military orders and the birth of our first child, to Bastyr University where I completed my doctorate. As a military spouse, after a difficult time of trying to start a practice in Texas, I am so thankful for the opportunity to make a living as a primary care doctor in Alaska. With the amazing outdoor adventures, safety, and similarities to where we were raised in Montana, we are planning to stay in North Pole to raise our three children once my husband retires in 3 years, after 20 years of service in the Army. I joined Dr. Amy Williamson, RN, ND, at Fairbanks Family Wellness in 2017, and enjoy helping patients and being able to refer them within the clinic for needed services to optimize their quality of life and health, including counseling, physical therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic care, nursing care, and massage therapy. It would be beneficial to be able to offer prescriptions as well, which is in accordance with my training and prescriptive abilities in other states including Washington, Oregon, and Montana, among other states. The ability to prescribe would benefit patients to ensure safety among medications and supplements, as well as efficiency of care so patients do not have to go between multiple practitioners for the management of one condition. As naturopaths, we were trained through over 1,200 clinical hours, under the direct supervision of naturopathic doctors in patient management, including prescription and supplement management. Please consider the benefits to our patients for us to be able to offer a broader scope of practice to enhance their wellness and preventative health goals.

In health,
Dr. Alana McLaughlin, ND
dralanamclaughlin@gmail.com
907-479-2331
Fairbanks Family Wellness
3550 Airport Way, Suite 4
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Emily Kane](#)
To: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Sara Hannan](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); [Rep. Mel Gillis](#); [Rep. Sara Rasmussen](#)
Cc: [Erin Harrington](#); [abby laing](#); [Suzette Mailloux](#); [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: HB 91
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:38:30 PM

Dear Representatives

I deeply appreciate the time you are taking to, at long last, give naturopathic doctors the opportunity to serve their patients as they were trained to do.

Over the years the only objection to modernizing our scope, since licensure in 1986, has come from ASMA docs. This rare handful have abased themselves with misrepresentations and falsehoods about NDs. Most physicians around the state actually work well with NDs. This is my personal experience. However to be an ASMA member there is a requisite amount of kowtowing to national policy which specifically works against scope expansion for NDs, ANPs, PAs, chiropractors, dental hygienists, midwives etc. See the enormous 2009 tome called, disingenuously, The Scope of Practice Partnership, sponsored by the national AMA which premiered in Alaska. SOPP mostly bombed but, unfortunately not just for NDs but for all Alaskans interested in restoring their health, it was effective in Alaska.

ASMA has largely been unsuccessful with their dubious efforts in Alaska but NDs simply don't have the lobby power afforded to much higher numbers of nurses and optometrists. Witness the broad scope of ANPs despite these advanced nurses having 20% less pharmacology training than I had. Witness useful scope gains for optometrists and dental hygienists in recent years. Those legal changes allow for better use of our health care personnel, and have translated to less human suffering. I applaud your efforts in bringing increased healthcare personnel, more affordable healthcare and allowing for freedom of choice in healthcare for Alaskans.

I took 3 quarters of minor surgery during my medical training and am completely capable of triaging and suturing minor wounds, inserting IUDs and taking skin biopsies. NDs are prohibited against major surgery of course. So are MDs and DOs who are not surgeons. I had an informal residency for one year before beginning my practice in Juneau. The first half was rotating through several hospitals in Shanghai and Chengdu, China, where I logged 900 supervised patient contact hours. I completed my preceptorship in a rural West Virginia clinic run by Dr Patch Adams.

In health!

Dr Emily Kane
Juneau AK

www.tri.ps/DSR
www.DrEmilyKane.com
www.NaturopathicMedicineInstitute.org
www.naturopathic.org
www.primarydoctor.org

Ashley Strauch

From: Dan Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2019 4:47 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 91 - Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Honorable Representatives of Labor & Commerce,

I support HB 91 because it will enable me to better serve my patients by allowing me to use the therapeutic modalities that I am well trained in.

In health,

Dr. Dan

Center for Natural Medicine, Inc.
16844 Easy Street
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

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**Center for
Natural Medicine, Inc.**

Honorable members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Daniel J. Young. I am a naturopathic doctor and a licensed acupuncturist. I have practiced naturopathic medicine for 27 years, 23 of those years have been in Eagle River, Alaska. My wife, Jennifer is a cardiac charge nurse for Alaska Regional Hospital. We live in Chugiak, Alaska where we have raised 9 children. In short, we love Alaska – the great outdoors and the opportunity to raise our family in a fresh, vibrant and safe atmosphere.

I moved to Alaska in 1995 and established the Eagle River Center for Naturopathic Medicine Inc. which was a medium sized family practice clinic that had 2-4 naturopathic doctors, nurse practitioners, acupuncturists, massage therapists, certified medical assistants, registered nurses on staff for 12 years. For 3 years I also had a 2nd location - a Complementary Care clinic in Palmer, Alaska where we served our Palmer and Wasilla patients. This location also had a medical doctor – a friend of mine, who embraced a complementary care model. In 2007, I downsized and created the Center for Natural Medicine Inc. which is a smaller but more efficient family practice. It is now located in a building that I own on Easy Street in Eagle River. It is a busy practice with lots of activity and loyal patients who love and embrace the tenets of naturopathic medicine.

My undergraduate degrees are in Premed, Zoology and English Literature from Brigham Young University. I have taught undergraduate and graduate level medical anatomy for three years and have contributed to publications on the subject. I graduated from the National College of Naturopathic Medicine (NCNM) in Portland, Oregon in 1992 with a Doctorate degree. I graduated from the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) in 1993. I then completed a post graduate program at the Hei Long Jiang College of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Harbin, China. I was the Director of Pharmacy for NCNM's teaching clinic in Portland and for the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and Health Sciences (SCNM) in Scottsdale, Arizona where I established a "state of the art" Natural Pharmacy for the teaching clinic.

I have practiced in Oregon where I maintained a DEA License with full prescriptive authority (Schedule 2). I have practiced in Arizona which also provides prescriptive authority for naturopathic physicians. Alaska, being the 5th state to be licensed has regressed in its ability to

"vis medicatrix naturae"

Daniel J. Young, ND, LAc. – Naturopathic Doctor & Licensed Acupuncturist
Phone (907)694-5522 | Fax (907)694-5524 | 16844 Easy Street | Eagle River, AK 99577
www.eaglerivernaturalmedicine.com

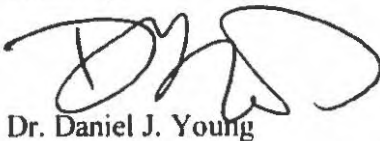
provide the scope of practice commensurate with naturopathic training. Throughout our 4 years (4100 hours) of rigorous didactic and clinical training we are steeped in the tools of our medicine. It is different than what other professions provide and should be assessed upon its own merits. We complete at least 2 years of "Clinical Externship" which is like a residency with hands on supervised outpatient care. Naturopathic doctors as a rule, do not practice hospital medicine. We work in the communities serving our patients and referring to other providers as appropriate. I refer patients to specialists all the time – orthopedic doctors, gastroenterologists, endocrinologists etc. – that is what primary care doctors do.

The passage of HB91 would allow naturopathic doctors to provide a B12 shot to a patient with pernicious anemia or diabetic neuropathy. It would provide for the ability to sew up a minor laceration or remove a mole. It would allow us to access the prescription vitamins and minerals, homeopathic medicines and botanical medicines that were recently taken away by regulation

change. It is a good bill that will support our ability to continue to provide affordable, safe and effective naturopathic medical care to Alaskans.

Please support HB91 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Young", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Daniel J. Young

Ashley Strauch

From: Dr Grove [REDACTED]
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.

--

Adam Grove, ND, CBIS

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Physical
3685 Arctic Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Acad
3705 Arctic Blvd. #420
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

April 7, 2019

The Honorable Jennifer Johnston
House District 28
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HB 91 - in support of Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine (ND)

Dear Representative Johnston:

I am writing in support of HB 91. My name is Ginger Scoggin and I have a medical practice that focuses entirely on tick-borne illnesses. As a member of ILADS (The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society), I am asked to consult on as many as 10 patients a month, on top of my patient load.

I work with very ill patients, regardless of their ability to pay. I am lucky to have an amazing group of clinicians that help me, including NDs. Naturopaths are regarded as equal, valued members of our grand round meetings. The information each team member brings to the table is vital. Patients deserve the best from all of us, whether they are our neighbors, live in rural Alaska, other states or countries.

Recently, a naturopath, neurologist and I met to see a very ill patient from rural Alaska. Having prior testing, we knew the pathogens we were dealing with, it took the us 3 days of work-up in Anchorage to come up with a treatment plan that would allow her to go home. She was going to need a series of injections, but the ND in her community was not able to do give injections, even if I prescribe it.

A Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine in Vancouver, WA recently asked for my help. The doctor was able to implement the treatment plan and now only occasionally needs my assistance. Her patient is doing great. This is how health care works in 2019. We do not work in silos and we do not think one specialty or modality has all the answers. It is not alternative, complementary or integrative. It is health care.

Essentially, we use the knowledge of our ND partners to help with diagnosing and treatment plans, but we do not allow them to help us treat. That is the crux of my frustration. I cannot do what I do without the help of every team member. This is not the first time I have asked The Alaska Naturopath Association and the Legislature for help. I am attaching a letter I wrote to Dr. Laing in 2017, letting her know that what the State calls "statutes" are unhelpful, irresponsibly worded, undefined and a danger to my patients.

I am asking The Committee to not allow a few territorial professionals to once again hinder patient care.

Ginger Scoggin, PhD, DNP, ANP-C
Board Certified

Ashley Strauch

From: P. Hayes [REDACTED]
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: 307-845-2112~~

Ashley Strauch

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 9:48 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: I Support HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Committee Members,

I support HB91 on the grounds that it is beneficial to the health and well being of the people in this great state of Alaska. As a nurse I regularly come in contact with patients who seek to incorporate natural medications and modalities to prevent and treat their health issues. There are so many natural products and ideas that it is overwhelming to be able to understand what may or may not be helpful in creating and maintaining health. Naturopathic doctors have been rigorously trained to understand and administer many health promoting medications and tools. This is not information for which person can go to a regular MD for help, as very few are trained or understand natural medicine. Unfortunately, naturopathic doctors are currently not allowed to treat their patients with the full scope of the knowledge and training they have received.

I ask you as a committee to support Alaskans right to choose natural medicine in its full capacity to heal and create health by allowing this bill to be heard by all of the representatives of our state.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Young, RN, BSN, PCCN, CMC

Chugiak, Alaska

Ashley Strauch

From: Christine Sagan [REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED] www.vitaeheal.com



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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Gonne-Harrell".

Karen Gonne'-Harrell

~~007-000000~~

KarenGH1@hotmail.com

Ashley Strauch

From: [REDACTED]
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

From: Stephanie Quinn-Davidson [REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99511

[REDACTED]

I am expressing my support of naturopaths in the State of Alaska having a full scope of practice and prescribing rights.

I am grateful that we are able to have a choice in our health care providers.

I live in Homer, AK and value the care that is available here and wish to see it remain and improve with HB91.

Best regards

Joyce Turkington



Dear Representatives,

I support HB 91. Naturopaths are stripped of their authority in this state by not being able to write prescriptions. I was horrified to learn this when I first moved back to Alaska in 2008. In order for a naturopath to function, they must use a PA to prescribe for them, thereby charging patients TWICE for care. Both the Naturopaths and their patients are impacted by this unfair practice. In Washington state, where I come from, many people use N.D.s as their primary doctors. I would hope that Alaska can learn from Washington.

All the best,



Nicoli Bailey

Honorable Commerce Committee Members:

Please support HB91 which provides Naturopaths full prescribing rights.

My family has been assisted greatly by access to naturopathic medicine because they repeatedly provided guidance on nutritional and supplements that have accomplished health goals for us that traditional providers have been unable to do.

Thank you
Jeane Breinig
Anchorage, AK

Dear Sir,

My name is Morris Kamelgarn and I am writing in support of the above bill to allow naturapathic to practice in Alaska. I am not a resident, but when I was living in Juneau from 2010-11, I saw a naturapathic doctor and she was very helpful.

Morris Kamelgarn

To Whom It May Concern;

I support HB91 because Alaska' naturopathic doctors are capable, educated, and willing to help those in need in our community. Allowing them to perform minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraceptive placement would be well within their skill set and a benefit to Alaskans.

Personally I have benefited tremendously from the thoughtful and thorough care of an ND.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brittany Robbins, LAc, DACM

I fully support HB 91, I prefer to see naturopathic doctors or PA. I have witnessed with my husband's decline of health and service by both the U.S. Army hospitals and the VA all the drugs and medications that have been to prescribed him. These medications contain chemicals and have side effects which are then resolved with the prescription of more chemical medications. It is a vicious cycle. Once I spoke with the doctor at the VA and asked why can't he take this natural medication, he said sure. Believe me my husband was a different person. Allowing the naturopathic doctors to prescribe natural medications which are usually plant based without the chemicals is a right they must be given. Allowing them to complete simple procedures in their office should be authorized as well. They have taken almost if not the same or more training as a regular doctor and should be afforded the same rights.

--

Robin (Rodriguez) Walthour

Good afternoon,

I support HB91 because I believe that naturopaths have played an important role in my family's health. This would include allowing us natural ways to get over sickness, much faster than the pharmaceutical alternatives. Also, I have learned a lot about what I am intolerant to as far as food is concerned.

Naturopaths are an important tool for the human body!!

Thank you,

Halie Rady
Fairbanks Alaska

I support HB91 because my family uses a Naturopath as our first line of health care.

With an extended scope of practice, we would definitely use our practitioner more.

Currently, we use our naturopathic doctor for analyzing detailed clinical lab work, and all conditions that osteopaths, chiropractors, physical therapists, and massage therapists would treat. Finally, our naturopath provides all of our nutritional / dietary guidance.

My family and I live in Fairbanks Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this bill.

Charles Allen
MAJ, US Army (retired)



I fully support a full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska.

Linda Baker
10738 Horizon Drive
Juneau, AK 99801



I am a patient of Megan Danz, ND in Palmer; she is the only doctor I have seen for several years. I support HB 91 so that she and other naturopaths can prescribe antibiotics or asthma inhalers or other medical interventions for which they are qualified.

For the many of us that have a naturopath as a primary care doctor, it would be much more comfortable, economic, and sensible to have them be able to provide these services, instead of requiring us to seek a second doctor, particularly when what we need is something very temporary.

Thank you for your consideration of the bill.

*Kendra Zamzow
Chickaloon, AK*

Dear Alaska State Representatives,

I support HB91. My family has relied on naturopathic doctors in Alaska (both Palmer and Anchorage) throughout the 40 years I have lived here. My naturopathic doctor has been able to diagnose and treat us holistically (i.e. discovering the cause for illness or injury, rather than focusing only on the problematic symptoms), especially when dealing with complex and less obvious conditions. The outcomes have been exceptionally successful. I fully endorse naturopathic doctors being allowed to practice using the full scope of their training.

Sarah Bean

Arctic Organics

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB91 because it would give our naturopaths a full scope of practice and allow them to provide minor in-office procedures such as stitches, shots, contraception placement, including prescribing rights, along with any and all other services they have been educated and trained to do.

Respectfully,


Melanie Meyer
Interior Designs, LLC



Hello,

I am writing this because I support HB91. I believe naturopaths are very important in the scope of health practices, & should be given the same availability to cure patients as any other doctor. Thank you

Sincerely,
Morgan H



I just wanted to voice my support for HB91 in granting full scope of practice to naturopaths in Alaska. My naturopath has been a critical part of my family's health for several years and my wife and I would love to see them able to prescribe medications and perform simple medical procedures as their education and training allows. Please allow my naturopath to take care of me and my family more fully!

Thank you,
Sy Cloud

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

Thank you for your service to the people of Alaska. I appreciate that HB 91 has been introduced and I urge you to support this bill, allowing Alaskan naturopaths the full scope of practice for which they have been trained.

Our family began visiting naturopathic doctors in Juneau in the 1990s when our children were young and, like many Southeast Alaskans, experienced multiple ear infections. We chose a naturopathic doctor because we wanted to explore treatments besides antibiotics; we'd learned repeated antibiotic treatment could result in resistance to certain medications. Naturopathic care was a good choice for us because we were able to avert several infections without these medications. Occasionally, we needed the "big guns" and our naturopath made the call to prescribe antibiotics. (At that time, naturopaths could prescribe.) It was very helpful that he was able to do so immediately, allowing our children to be treated right away.

Two decades later, when our children were off on their own, my husband and I needed treatment for our own unique conditions. We turned to naturopathic medicine because neither of us was experiencing improvement via traditional medicine. Our naturopath assisted us in setting up wellness-promoting lifestyle practices involving diet and exercise for my husband's Parkinson's Disease, and the use of prolotherapy to ease pain and help heal my arthritic hip. As a result of this doctor's assistance, my husband and two friends started the first Alaskan franchise of Rock Steady Boxing, a research-based therapy for Parkinson's Disease. The program now provides consistent relief from the symptoms of Parkinson's for 12-15 Juneau residents with Parkinson's Disease. In addition, I was able to postpone a total hip replacement for several years, partially due to prolotherapy. Unfortunately, our naturopath was unable to prescribe certain newly-approved treatments due to legislatively-imposed limitations on naturopathic practice.

The naturopaths who have assisted us over the years are skilled practitioners who attend frequent trainings to improve and update their skills. They have unique skill sets that complement, rather than displace, those of traditional doctors. Please recognize their proactive contributions to Alaskans' health by passing HB 91, restoring to these trained professionals the full scope medical of practice for which they are qualified.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey
Retired Teacher

Hello, I live in Eagle River and am emailing to express my view and support for SB 91 to allow the full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska. I feel they should be granted prescribing rights and the right to help patients with minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraception placement. My family has received great care from naturopaths, who have augmented their practices by also having us see an in-house nurse practitioner for prescriptions and minor procedures. Seeing one provider rather than two would consolidate our care.

Thank you,

Carla SlatonBarker

Dear Chairpersons Wool and LeDoux and fellow Committee Members,

I strongly support HB 91 which establishes a clear scope of practice for NDs that reflects their education, training, and efficacy for patient healing. I have lived in Fairbanks for over 15 years and find healthcare options here to be extremely limited. Two years ago I got incredibly ill, lost over 40 lbs and had debilitating pain due to reflux. I went to numerous internal medicine MDs in town, I even went to Mayo Clinic, and found no relief or answers for over a year. It was my naturopath who listened to me, tested me from an integrative approach and who eventually diagnosed me with an autoimmune disease that was the root cause of my illness. However, she could not work on prescribing hormones and other non controlled drugs, and I was forced to go back and forth between an MD and her making my healing longer and much more expensive. My naturopath is now my primary care physician, and as such should be able to perform the functions outlined in this bill. For a state with limited health providers, this bill is a necessity and will save Alaskans not just money but also pain and suffering.

Thank you for your time and your service to Alaska,

Amy Gallaway

Hello, I just wanted to send a letter letting you know I am in support of HB91! Natural path doctors have been huge for me in Alaska, especially recently, when every other doctor has not been able to help with some debilitating symptoms I was having I went to a natural path doctor and she was able to make my symptoms go away really quick through herbs and acupuncture.

In addition to that huge help, I also see my practitioner for everything, it's very frustrating that she cannot always prescribe something like an antibiotic if it's really necessary, she can diagnose but then I have to go spend more money and time for someone else to prescribe. It would be so much better if they could do that.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Danae Bee

I am in complete support for naturopaths in Alaska to have a full scope of practice. My Naturopath in Juneau Alaska has helped me Medically more than any other Other Doctor in Juneau . It is wonderful to have such a knowledgeable professional doctor that really cares about their patients and is willing to spend quality timeworn them.

Sincerely, Kayla Wyatt

I am a Fairbanks resident who benefits greatly from naturopathic medicine. I support HB91 because it is an efficient means for improving wellness and healthcare access for Alaskans. I am writing to ask members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee to recognize the full scope of training Naturopathic Doctors receive by granting them prescribing rights and allowing them to help patients with minor in-office procedures like stitches, shots, and contraception placement.

Thank you!

Jennifer Reed

Hello, I support House bill 91. Naturpathic medicine is of great value to us all as we must learn more about these and more natural therapies. EDTA Chelation Therapy saved me from conventional surgery because of an 85% clogged artery and I will always be grateful. Also Ozone and UVBI are both wonderful treatments for cancer as well as IV Vit. C and others. Thanks, G. Gore, cancer survivor because of these types of treatments. I am now on my 3rd cancer book.

My primary care provider for the past 20 years is a naturopath and I believe my care would be enhanced by allowing her to practice using the full scope of her training. I support HB91 allowing the full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska. Joyce Sarles

I would like to ask you to please support this bill. I use naturopaths and would really like this to go thru.
Thank you Carol Dunlap Austin

I support HB91, the bill ensuring Alaska's naturopaths have a full scope of practice, including prescribing rights.

I have always visited naturopathic doctors growing up. I believe they are highly educated professionals that need prescribing rights to fully help their patients.

I'd love to be able to visit one doctor to get all my needs met here in Fairbanks.

Thanks,
Katie

I support HB91 because i would like to have my ND be able to prescribe the medicine i need and be able to help with minor in office procedures. it doesn't make sense (practically or financially) to have to see a different doctor to have those items taken care of. i prefer to see a ND and believe their care is excellent and would like to not have to see multiple doctors when my ND could take care of my needs.

i live in wasilla.

thank you.


Tanya scott

I support HB91 because as the brother and a patient of a NP Doctor I know that they have to go thru all the training of a traditional Doctor plus more. Therefore I believe it is wrong to limit the kinds of help they are allowed to provide patients. Charles Peep

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support for HB91, which would give my naturopathic physician the opportunity to better support my family's health by permitting him to practice within the scope of his education, training, and skill. I support HB91 because I have seen first hand the benefit that naturopathic physicians can affect on the health of my family and community. As an Alaskan, I feel strongly that we should have the right to choose our path to seeking safely administered health care and wellness. Naturopathic physicians are highly educated, accredited, and regulated health care providers, and as such Alaskans should be permitted access to the full scope of their quality care.

Thank you for your time and consideration in representing the health of my family and community.

Sincerely,
Alexis Sayer
Chugiak, Alaska



I want to thank Representative Jennifer Johnston for introducing HB91. As a long time patient of Dr. Torrey Smith, I wholeheartedly support this effort and hope the House moves this bill forward quickly.

Beverly Tallman
Wasilla, Alaska

I completely support HB91 because I think naturopathic medicine is essential to providing healthcare to our citizens by treating acute and chronic conditions successfully, as well as preventative medicine to ensure future health.

Please do what you can to make sure this bill goes through.

Many thanks,

Paula Sumner
Big Lake, AK

Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee.

I support a full scope of practice for Naturopaths in Alaska. These people are a extremely positive resource for myself and my wife. The Naturopaths provide an important frontline support that otherwise would not be available to us.

Sincerely,

Larry and Barbara LaGrone

Hi,

I am a combat veteran from Iraq in 2006. I have a really tough, chronic back pain from trauma during that tour. I have only been seeing Dr. Young for acupuncture for about 4 months, but his treatment has made a positive and measureable difference in pain management as well as mobility. I just wanted to share that in your considerations of this bill. Many thanks

Kathy

Katherine R. Campbell

Ashley Strauch

From: Steve Geddes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2019 6:25 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Geddes and my family and I have been seeing Dr. Young at the Center for Natural Medicine in Eagle River for over 10 years. I support a full scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Alaska.

During that time Dr. Young has helped me with a variety of health-related issues—from minor illnesses to digestive disease that severely impacted my quality of life. It's within my struggle with digestive disease that I hope you will see how valuable it is that Alaskans have the choice to access the knowledge, skills, and competencies of a naturopathic doctor.

I struggled for years with stabbing pains in my gut that would stop me dead in my tracks several times a day. I saw various healthcare professionals prior to seeing Doctor Young for this ailment—Advanced Nurse Practitioners, MDs, and GI specialists; providers both in the Valley and in Anchorage. I underwent testing and expensive scoping procedures and ate lots of prescriptions medicine every day that didn't simply didn't help. I had no one left to turn to in the state of Alaska when I brought this problem to Dr. Young.

Dr. Young sat down with me and we discussed my history and symptoms and we spoke for about 2 hours (3 to 4 times as long as my previous consults with other health professionals, including specialists). Dr. Young recommended a course of treatment that ultimately cured all my digestive symptoms within a few months.

I am firmly confident in the knowledge, training, and skills of Dr. Young and his staff and based on my experience, think it completely reasonable that naturopathic doctors be allowed to perform the procedures included in the bill. In conclusion, I would just like to impress upon the committee how important having the choice to see a naturopathic doctor was to finding a resolution with my health condition and improving the quality of my life. Thank you.

--
Best Regards,

Steve Geddes

Ashley Strauch

From: Anne Dawson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2019 8:00 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I strongly support HB 91. The service and care from naturopath physicians is exceptional and I support a full scope of practice for them here in Alaska.

As an Anchorage resident for over 40 years, naturopathic physicians have provided care for all of three of my children's births and my care from childbearing years to present. They have always worked collaboratively with other medical practitioners by referring when a specialty is needed.

The holistic collaborative approach has created healthy support for my entire family including my husband's successful remission of cancer.

Please pass this bill to improve health care services in Alaska.

Thank you,

Anne Dawson

Ashley Strauch

From: Sherry Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 9:36 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am in full support of HB91 - "An Act relating to the practice of naturopathy; relating to the licensure of naturopaths; relating to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; and providing for an effective date."

I work for the Center for Natural Medicine and have for nearly 6 years now and I have experienced first hand how naturopathic medicine and acupuncture treatments have changed the lives of our patients. Many come to us after an exhausting search to find compassion and understanding from medical professionals. Many come to find alternatives to pain medicine through acupuncture treatments and other forms of naturopathic medicine. It is my opinion that Naturopathic physicians be treated with the same respect as MD's and be allowed to practice medicine as others in the medical profession.

Thank you!

Sherry Miller, CMA
The Center For Natural Medicine

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Ashley Strauch

From: David Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 11:13 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

I want to state that I support HB91 because our doctors have helped our family in so many ways. They offer the care and support that we have not found in other places, by General Practitioners in the area. I received a number of different treatments for my neck and back in the last year that saved me. In short order, I was back to my normal day to day feeling better than expected, faster than I had expected.

Thank You,

Mr David Murphy
Chugiak, AK

I am expressing my support of naturopaths in the State of Alaska having a full scope of practice and prescribing rights. I am grateful that we are able to have a choice in our health care providers. I live in Chugiak, AK and value the care that is available at The Center for Natural Medicine in Eagle River, AK and wish to see it remain and improve with HB91.

Best Regards,

Barb Hall

Ashley Strauch

From: Sandy Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 2:34 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91 Juneau

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please support and recognize the full scope of practice for the Naturopaths here in Alaska. In Juneau I have gone to a Naturopath for 20 years and she has continued to help me toward better health. I would like my Naturopath to help their patients with minor in-office procedures, shots etc.. This will help insure our Naturopaths will stay in this great state of ALASKA, support our community members in many ways, and keep more money in Alaska.

Thanks Sandy R. Williams

Ashley Strauch

From: Alex [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 3:34 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Subject: Support for HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Members of The Alaska House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge your support for House Bill 91. I support HB91 because it will recognize the full scope of the training of naturopathic doctors by granting them appropriate prescription rights and allowing them to serve their patients with minor in-office procedures such as stitches and injections.

Thank you,
Alex Steelsmith
Kailua, Hawaii

Ashley Strauch

From: Susan Bohart [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 9:20 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to let you know that I support HB 91 because I greatly value the option to have naturopathic treatments.

Naturopathic doctors have been able to identify and successfully treat illnesses for me personally, that other medical professionals did not.

I value both the traditional and naturopathic medical options, please do not limit our options for natural health.

Thank you,

Susan Bohart

P O Box 10466

Fairbanks, AK 99710

907-457-4146

Ashley Strauch

From: dodie caputo [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 3:31 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Subject: Hb91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support full scope of practice for NDS in Fairbanks.
Dodie Caputo

Ashley Strauch

From: Leslie Dirkes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 4:27 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Naturalpath

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Naturalpatic medicine has helped me with a lot of pain an disabilities i would not be getting better with out them Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Strauch

From: Kimberly Ryan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 7:38 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Subject: I support HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I support HB91! I live in Fairbanks and rarely consult medical doctors for my health care. naturopaths in Fairbanks have been able to help me with anything from curing acute infections without the use of antibiotics, to emotional support with homeopathy, to childhood ear infections and fevers from teething, to nutritional support. I am always helped by my naturopath and whatever can be done to allow them to practice under the full extent of their training in Alaska I am all for it!

Sincerely,
Kim Ryan

Ashley Strauch

From: Larry Colp [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Follow Up Flag: [REDACTED]
Flag Status: Flagged

I support HB91 because Naturopathic Doctors have has extensive training such that they should have prescribing rights and allow patients to receive minor In-office procedures, at least.

I have used ND's myself and have found them to as competent as MD's for subjects I needed at the time.

Thank you for opening up the options for health care which also will lower its overall cost.

Ashley Strauch

From: Maryann Frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 3:05 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear State Representatives:

As a cancer survivor, I know what it takes to get well from overwhelming health obstacles. My Anchorage naturopath was a key member of my recovery efforts. However, my recovery would have been easier if my naturopath had prescription writing privileges.

I support a full scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska.

Respectfully,
Maryann Frazier
Anchorage

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Ashley Strauch

From: Robin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 4:52 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Naturopathic doctors

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

It is a travesty that naturopathic doctors, who receive as much training as medical doctors, are not allowed a full scope of practice. This includes the writing of prescriptions.

My naturopath is a necessary adjunct to allopathic care. My family has used both naturopathic and allopathic doctors for many years. Frankly, I have found my naturopath to be more competent than many of the medical practitioners I have utilized for my family. Perhaps this is because the naturopath takes more time to listen.

The objection by the medical association is solely about money, not competence.

Please pass this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Ashley Strauch

From: Carma Johnston [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 5:01 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Subject: HB1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Our family has been residents of Eagle River for 50+ years. One of the things we love about our town is our Natural-paths .

Dr. Daniel Young is an enteral part of our family's health . Please continue to support Natural paths in Alaska and especially our community. Thank you

Carma Johnston

Ashley Strauch

From: Kylara Hollingsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2019 2:22 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: I support HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern:

I have receive informed and quality care for my family though a Naturopath since I was a new mother. Naturopathic medicine is an integral part of our health care. With the passage of HB91 allowing Naturopaths can work to the scope of their training it would reduce our costs, of money and time, as a family. This is because there would be more consolidated care with less need to schedule and travel to different practitioners. We live in Anchorage and I support HB91.

Sincerely,

Kylara Hollingsworth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ashley Strauch

From: Bradley Kloeckl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2019 2:38 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,
I'd be grateful if you protect the right and personal medical choices of Alaskan residents by passing HB91.
Thank you for your efforts,
Bradley Kloeckl
448 Bonanza Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Ashley Strauch

From: Jennifer L Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2019 9:41 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support HB91 because I have a great Naturopath provider and Naturopath providers should be able to practice with all the privileges that there education and license allow.

I live in Anchorage and my Naturopath is in Eagle river, AK. The concept of treating me the whole person, not just my symptoms, is one of the reasons that I see a Naturopath my for health care.

Thank you,

Jennifer Smith

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Ashley Strauch

From: Renee Ernster [REDACTED]
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
[REDACTED]

Ashley Strauch

From: Ann Hackett [REDACTED]
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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AK 99603

Ashley Strauch

From: Amanda Riley [REDACTED]
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 3, 2019

To: Alaska House Labor & Commerce Comm.

From: Wayne Aderhold (patient-consumer)

Re: HB-91 / Practice and Licensing of Naturopaths / **YES !!**

Co-Chairs LeDoux & Wool, and Members Fields, Hannan, Stutes, Revak, and Talerico:

This bill:

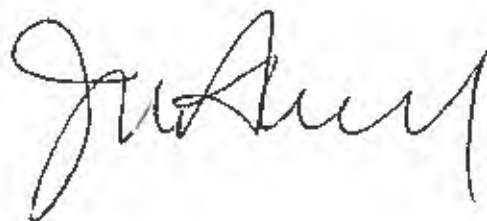
- Is (finally) a **clear, concise and comprehensive** re-write of the original (rushed) 1986 statute that has been long overdue (kudos to the Sponsor!)
- removes long-standing roadblocks to the proper practice of this profession in Alaska and promote **responsible commerce** and **free-market principles** (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 and into statute with all due haste – we've had years of unnecessary turmoil generated by unjustified "fear" (of competition) ... which has hurt consumer-patients (like me).

Sincerely,

Wayne Aderhold

353 Grubstake Ave., Homer, AK 99603



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 status of the resurgence by popular demand of “patient-centered” care after the allopathic school wiped out naturopathy’s predecessor, homeopathy, in the early twentieth century.¹ 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).

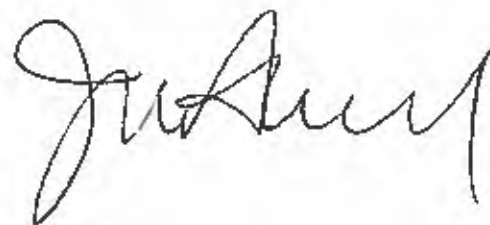
I fully expect from past legislative attempts to fix the ND statute that the sole opposition to this bill will come from ASMA (Alaska State Medical Association) and there will be overwhelming support from patient-consumers (who have been relying on the naturopathic profession for their health, and supporting 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 competitionⁱⁱ. 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.ⁱⁱⁱ

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@xvz.net

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

ⁱ 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)

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.

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

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
Also		
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: ability to employ MDs; use of lasers; administration of certain injectable materials including, but not limited to, flourescein dye, collagen or Botulinium toxin</i>

(*) 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

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

From: Tim Gray [REDACTED]
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
[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Ashley Strauch

From: Linda DeFoliart <[REDACTED]>
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]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Ashley Strauch

From: Olivia Lunsford [REDACTED]
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
[REDACTED]
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Ashley Strauch

From: Mary Burtness <[REDACTED]>
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

From: Ann Stone [REDACTED]
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

--

Ann Stone

I will grow where I am planted

Ashley Strauch

From: Candy [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 5:23 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: H891

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

From: sarah herrema [REDACTED]
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

From: Ernest K. Andrew [REDACTED]
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

From: Gretchen Murphy [REDACTED]
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

~~3504 Webb Drive~~

Fairbanks ~~99709~~

Ashley Strauch

From: Steve Wengelewski [REDACTED]
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

From: Brian & Lisa Martsof [REDACTED]
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 Martsof
Fairbanks, Alaska

Ashley Strauch

From: Elisabeth Murray [REDACTED]
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

From: trish warner <[REDACTED]>
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

From: Vince Meurlott [REDACTED]
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.

--

Best,
Vince Meurlott
Meurlott Consulting Inc
~~506 4th St Suite 200~~
Fairbanks, Alaska ~~99701~~
website: meurlott.com
~~Phone (907) 578-4663~~

Ashley Strauch

From: Bill Kopplin [REDACTED]
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.

--
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

From: Raina Douglass [REDACTED]
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

From: Marjie Richards [REDACTED]
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
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK

Ashley Strauch

From: Michelle Denney [REDACTED]
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

From: Sheryl Chriest [REDACTED]
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

From: Abigail Brown [REDACTED]
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

From: Paula Williams [REDACTED]
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
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99502
p0williams@icloud.com

Ashley Strauch

From: JaRock Latta [REDACTED]
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 life saver.

Rocky Latta
Eagle River, Alaska

Ashley Strauch

From: Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Erin Shine
Subject: Fwd: HB 91

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

From: Ronnie Boyle [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Apr 20, 2019 at 7:39 AM
Subject: HB 91
To: [REDACTED]

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

..

Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians
www.akang.org

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

Ashley Strauch

From: Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 4:06 PM
To: Erin Shine
Subject: Fwd: HB91- Brenna Bigelow

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

From: Brenna Rollman [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Apr 27, 2019 at 1:32 PM
Subject: HB91- Brenna Bigelow
To:
Cc: [REDACTED]

- 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

--
Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians
www.akanp.org

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

From: [Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians](#)
To: [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: Fwd: HB91
Date: Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:05:15 PM

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

From: **Theresa Zietlow** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 7:57 PM
Subject: HB91
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greetings, I support HB91 for Anchorage, Ak. It would be great to allow these trained individuals to perform medical practices that they are qualified to do! Thank you much!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lauren Risby](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: aknaturopaths@gmail.com; [REDACTED] [Erin Shine](#)
Subject: HB91
Date: Friday, May 3, 2019 9:05:04 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I support HB91 because allowing naturopathic doctors to practice the full scope of their training will improve healthcare access by increasing the number of primary providers in Alaska. As someone with chronic illnesses, finding a solid primary health care provider has been a challenge. It wasn't until I started going to Thrive Integrative Medicine in Anchorage, Alaska in the winter of 2017 that my health finally started to improve. My naturopathic doctor at Thrive is saving my life. For the first time in my life I feel HEARD by a doctor. I am not just a number, a patient pushed out the door after a quick assessment. My needs are listened to and addressed. My story is heard. Due to the nature of my illnesses I require multiple medical appointments a week. By allowing naturopathic doctors to practice the full scope of their training this could significantly reduce the number of appointments I have with outside providers. Having chronic illnesses is exhausting and debilitating. I support HB91 because having the ability to access more services under one roof would significantly improve the healthcare of our community.

Lauren Risby

Community Member

Anchorage Alaska

From:

Subject:

Date:

HB 91 - scope of practice for NDs

Sunday, February 23, 2020 12:36:20 PM

>

> Dear Representatives, Over the years I have supported Naturopathic doctors and have seen one here in Juneau for a good 25 years. I like the care I receive, natural remedies to try, an hour appointment where she has time to connect with me and listen to address my concerns. I would like her to do other care practices that she has been trained and would benefit me.

> So thanks again for giving naturopathic doctors the opportunity to serve their patients as they were trained to do. Please support them in this great State for all Alaskan's interested in restoring and maintaining their health in natural ways. I think this state should encourage more Naturopath's to come here and practice, so therefore they need to do more for patients which they have been trained. The State would be a better place if more Naturopaths could come and make a living here throughout all of Alaska.

Thanks Sandy R. Williams Juneau, AK.

>

>

February 26, 2020

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me this time to show my support for HB 91 and support the valuable professionals who serve Alaskans in the Naturopathic Medical Field.

I have worked as a Certified Medical Assistant at the Center for Natural Medicine in Eagle River for the past 6 years. During this time, I have come to love the Naturopathic side of medicine. Most of our patients walk through our doors fed up with the way their care is handled by mainstream medicine. They seek help without the push for pharmaceuticals to treat their pain. They are looking for healthier natural ways to treat their conditions. It is extremely frustrating to be limited to what we can and can not provide. It is disheartening to see my doc tell his patients that due to the laws that dictate ND practice in Alaska, he is prohibited from providing a simple procedure such as a suture removal or skin biopsy. Should a patient require a B12 injection they have to go elsewhere because Alaska has prohibited ND's from doing so

ND's are highly skilled professionals with more education and hands-on training in natural medicine than MD's. It is an injustice to tie the hands of these highly qualified professionals.

The passage of HB 91 would allow naturopathic doctors the ability to provide to their patients safe and quality care and allow Alaskan the freedom to choose what is best for their healthcare needs.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Miller

Certified Medical Assistant

Ted Madsen

From: Kasey Casort
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: House Bill 91 - In support

Kasey Casort

Office of Representative Ivy Spohnholz

State Capitol, Room 421

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-2794



[Sign up for our e-news](#)

From: Dan Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 91 - In support

Dear Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider what House Bill 91 would mean for the practice of naturopathic medicine in the State of Alaska. I am in support of this bill.

For years, we as an association have strived to educate the legislature about naturopathic medicine and the benefit to Alaskans of modernizing our scope of practice. It is safe, affordable, and effective. This is well documented in the materials accompanying HB91. Alaskans should have the freedom to choose the healthcare they deem best for themselves – and it should be the complete package. The only party to oppose our bills has been the medical lobby. They have the money, power and influence to make any profession look bad. They have done it with optometrists, chiropractors, nurse practitioners and physical therapists. Most medical doctors and the Alaska State Medical Association know very little about the practice of naturopathic medicine. It is not what they do. It is not what they are educated in. Often their opinions are not based in fact.

Personally, I have worked with MDs in Alaska for years. Some are my friends. I refer to gastroenterologists, endocrinologists, cardiologists, neurologists as well as other specialties when the need arises. I do this because of their expertise in what they do, and I want my patients to have access to the best specialized care for their condition.

During medical school I took 3 quarters of pharmacology, 2 quarters of pharmacognosy, and 3 quarters of botanical medicine. I passed the NPLEX national board exams that required pharmacology. I had a practice in

Oregon where I maintained a DEA License with full prescriptive authority (Schedule 2). I practiced in Arizona which also provides full prescriptive authority for naturopathic physicians. In Alaska, I have less prescriptive authority than an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) who has 20 % less pharmacology training than I did. I can't even give a patient with pernicious anemia or diabetic neuropathy a B12 shot! I can't access prescription vitamins and mineral preparations, homeopathic medicines and botanical medicines that were taken away by regulation change.

In medical school I completed 3 quarters of minor surgery, met the clinical requirements for proficiency and passed the NPLEX minor surgery board exam. I am completely capable of repairing minor lacerations, removing benign lesions, doing a biopsy or inserting an IUD. I also know when a wound requires specialized care and needs referral to a specialist.

I completed 2 years of clinical externship - a residency with supervised outpatient care. Naturopathic doctors as a rule, do not practice hospital medicine. We work in family practice settings and our training is appropriate for this. We refer to other providers as necessary.

Alaska, being the 5th state to be licensed for naturopathy has regressed in its ability to provide the scope of practice commensurate with naturopathic training. Throughout our 4 years (4100 hours) of rigorous didactic and clinical training we are steeped in the tools of our medicine. It is different than what other professions provide and should be assessed upon its own merits.

The passage of HB91 would allow naturopathic doctors to provide a broader scope of affordable, safe and effective naturopathic medical care to Alaskans.

Please support HB91 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,

In health,

Dr. Dan

*Center for Natural Medicine, Inc.
16844 Easy Street
Eagle River, Alaska 99577*

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Ted Madsen

From: Kasey Casort
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: HB 91 from a Nurse's Viewpoint

Kasey Casort
Office of Representative Ivy Spohnholz
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2794



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From: Jennifer Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 8:47 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 91 from a Nurse's Viewpoint

Dear Committee Members,

Because it is beneficial to the health and well being of the people of Alaska, I support HB 91. As a nurse I regularly come in contact with patients who seek to incorporate natural medications to prevent and treat their health issues. There are so many natural products and ideas that it is overwhelming to understand what may or may not be helpful in creating and maintaining health. Naturopathic doctors are experts at natural medicine and have been rigorously trained to understand and administer these medications and tools. This is not information for which person can go to a regular MD for help, as very few are trained or understand natural medicine. In fact, in my experience, many medical doctors are extremely biased against natural medicine and have little knowledge of the good that comes from it. Unfortunately, naturopathic doctors are currently not allowed to treat their patients with the full scope of the knowledge and training they have received. You have the ability to help that to change.

I ask you as a committee to support Alaskans right to choose natural medicine in its full capacity to heal and create health by allowing this bill to be heard by all of the representatives of our state. Da

Respectfully,

Jennifer Young, RN, BSN, PCCN, CMC

Chugiak, Alaska

Ted Madsen

From: Kasey Casort
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: Support for HB 91

Kasey Casort
Office of Representative Ivy Spohnholz
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-2794



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From: Cameron O'Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 7:24 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 91

5/1/2019

Representative Spohnholz,

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 patients 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, ND

Addendum 2/25/2020 - It was asked at the previous round of public testimony as to whether or not my residency training was overseen by medical doctors as well as naturopathic doctors. Yes, it was overseen by both types of providers. I had three medical doctors that I worked with as well as one naturopathic doctor. The claims that we are overseen by only naturopathic doctors are unwarranted and, from my own experience, it was not true.

Testimony in support of House Bill 91

Restoring Scope of Practice to Naturopathic Physicians

Katherine Brown
PO Box 33492
Juneau, Alaska 99803
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am a five generation Juneauite and great-niece of Dora Sweeney, an elected delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. Dora represented Juneau from 1955 to 1965 in both territorial and state legislatures. I myself was a legislative staffer from 1971 through 1989. I am a state retiree and Licensed Massage Therapist in Alaska and Hawaii.

Naturopaths receive the same training as medical doctors for the first two years of their education. At that point their education diverges into natural medicine. They are therefore fully qualified to function as primary care physicians and able to competently perform minor surgeries, prescribe certain medications, order testing, etc.

In light of the above, we should be asking ourselves "how is the public served by limiting naturopathic medicine?" Health care costs and lack of access to medical care are huge problems for Alaskans and a key driver in increasing Alaska's Budget. Not taking advantage of the full capacities of Alaska's naturopathic physicians is madness, particularly in light of the increasing prevalence of chronic and preventable disease.

Who is advantaged by this limitation? If you believe in the free market system, then you probably also believe that government shouldn't be picking winners and losers without a compelling public interest. Naturopaths have completed all nationally required training and education and shouldn't be limited in any way, particularly since medical professionals with far less education are currently allowed greater scopes of practice in this state. Disadvantaging naturopathic physicians by limiting their scope of practice derails the freedom of all Alaskans to choose the kind of care they desire.

Unsubstantiated scary stories advanced by those with an economic interest in limitation, can probably be countered in equal measure by unsubstantiated stories on the other side of the issue. If they are not documented and legally reported as required by law, they have no place in the present discussion. My own lived experience with naturopathic care has been extremely positive. I am a survivor of a life-threatening illness with an excellent prognosis going forward. I credit this entirely to the naturopathic support and care I received throughout my illness. All Alaskans should have access to this kind of care if they so choose.

Please support this bill and pass it out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.



1225 East International Airport Road, Suite 220
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
Phone: (907) 222-7714; Web site: www.akaction.org

February 28, 2020

Letter of Support for House Bill 91: Alaska Naturopathic Health Care Reform

Dear Chair Spohnholz and Members of the Labor and Commerce Committee:

Thank you for convening a hearing on HB 91, the Alaska Naturopathic Health Care Reform bill. As the director of a small non-profit organization, I know how important naturopathic health care is to our employees. Most of our staff rely on naturopathic health care and have naturopathic physicians as primary health care providers. We benefit as individuals and as an organization because naturopathic doctors focus on disease prevention and wholistic care. I have seen direct benefits in reduction of sick days and in the positive benefits to long-term health and well-being of our staff members. The quality of health care service from naturopathic doctors is extraordinary, accessible, and highly beneficial to our community. This saves money for our staff members, organization, health insurers, and the state.

We strongly support HB 91 because it establishes a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors that reflects their extensive education and training. This is important because it will strengthen the number of primary care providers in Alaska and improve access to high quality health care. The services of naturopathic doctors are in increasing demand because people see the direct benefits for their health and well-being. Please pass HB 91 to allow for naturopathic doctors to provide the care that is standard to their training and that is commonly practiced in other U.S. states.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Miller, Executive Director

Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: Support of HB91 (and SB120)

-----Original Message-----

From: Thomas Bailly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:40 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Cc: Erin Shine <Erin.Shine@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support of HB91 (and SB120)

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in support of HB91 as a medical professional of the past 23 years and a resident of the great state of Alaska for the past 26 , currently in Anchorage.

Several years ago I had a considerable health downturn of unknown etiology, visits to several different MDs failed to help in any way and thankfully the outstanding Dr Abby Laing ND was able to help me determine what was going on and how to return to my previous state of health through appropriate and targeted testing.

I think it is important to understand that every profession has practitioners of different calibers, and any attempt by a group of professionals to raise the standards by which they practice and to expand their ability to give appropriate care should be supported whole heartedly.

My wife has benefited greatly from the care of an ND who accurately identified a gastro intestinal problem caused by a hospital error, she referred her to a Gastro intestinal specialist for a successful treatment. She also was able to identify a hormonal problem and while she had the knowledge to diagnose the problem and knew how to treat it, she was unable to do so because of a lack of prescription rights. This created the situation where my wife had to visit another provider, an NP with a similar training background to the ND and start over as a new patient with the additional financial and time costs that entails. It appears that the training is sufficient to correctly diagnose the problem and the knowledge good enough to know the cure , it should be a no brainer to allow this practitioner to actual write the prescriptions.

It should be easy enough to write into law a limited prescriptive authority as exists in many states, NDs do likely not need chemo or opioid prescription rights nor do they seem to be seeking such.

The ability of NDs to do minor surgical treatments such as wart removals or minor stitches and to have limited prescription rights would greatly expand medical coverage for many of us while at the same time reduce the need for duplicate visits to different providers thus reducing medical expense and improving patient experience and access.

I encourage you to ignore unsubstantiated claims used as a scare tactic and listen instead to those of us patients who have received attentive and appropriate treatment by NDs. We would like to see a natural extension of this expert care expanded into limited prescription rights and the ability to do minor surgical procedures for which they are trained. That

these fine individuals are wanting to increase the standards to which they are held through testing should tell you everything you need to know.

I hope you will support HB91 & SB120.

Respectfully

Thomas Bailly

Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: I support HB91

From: Adam Groch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB91

I support HB91 because I have direct experience and knowledge regarding the training that naturopathic doctors receive. While pursuing my own doctorate, I studied alongside naturopathic doctorate students and saw first hand the extensive pharmacological and traditional medical subjects incorporated into their education.

I currently work alongside naturopathic physicians in my Anchorage-based clinic, and continue to marvel at their expertise and abilities. Not only does their unique training provide alternative and conservative treatment options for traditional medicine, but they're also proficient with traditional medical treatments, medical standards of care, and prescription medications. This allows for better patient outcomes and significant health care cost savings in many cases, and would do so to a greater extent if a patient could see a naturopathic doctor for more primary care needs.

Additionally, Alaska's limited scope of practice for naturopaths discourages new graduates from working in Alaska. I knew many students that considered it during school but eventually dismissed the idea in favor of a broader scope state. This impacts availability of care across our great state over time.

I strongly urge legislators to pass bill HB91 for the benefit of Alaskans.

--

Respectfully,

Adam Groch, DC | Chiropractic Physician



3330 Eagle St | Anchorage, AK 99503
907.561.2330



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Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: HB91

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Larsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB91

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

I'm contacting you to Voice my support for HB91. My family and I have received excellent and thoughtful healthcare from Naturopathic physicians in Anchorage for 25 years. In an era of increasingly specialized medicine, Naturopathic doctors take a broad view of their patient's health and as a result are able to piece together many diverse and seemingly unrelated aspects that contribute a person's health. Healthcare providers with such a 360 degree view of health are sorely needed today; especially in a state with a rural population like Alaska. By passing HB91 Naturopaths will be able to build upon this effective and needed model of healthcare delivery.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of Alaskans.

Sincerely, Mark Larsen

Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: Support HB 91

From: Stephanie Quinn-Davidson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 91

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

As I have in the past, I am writing again to encourage you to support and take action this legislative session to pass HB 91. 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 due to 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 few times I've 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 appointments. 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 Woronzof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

[REDACTED]

--

Stephanie Quinn-Davidson (she/her/hers)
Anchorage, Alaska

[REDACTED]

Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: In support of HB 91

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Ryder [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>
Subject: In support of HB 91

Good evening,

Please except this email as my public testimony in support of HB91. My naturopathic Doctor, Emily Kane, has helped me tremendously over the years. She is a brilliant doctor, like many of the well educated Naturopathic doctors in Alaska. I support them and their quest to lift restrictions on their practices, which in turn limits the much needed services that their patients need. We trust them with our healthcare and they should not be restricted from preforming the duties that are within their scope of practice and education.

Thank you,

Amy Ryder

Sent from my iPhone

Ted Madsen

From: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Ted Madsen
Subject: FW: HB91 Testimony

From: Zaneta Stetsunova [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:00 PM
To: aknaturopaths@gmail.com
Cc: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mel Gillis <Rep.Mel.Gillis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB91 Testimony

My name is Zaneta Stetsunova, I live in Anchorage, with my husband and our two healthy children and we support HB91.

My family and I have been the patients of several Naturopathic doctors in the Anchorage area, all 4 of us use an ND as our primary provider. However, when one of us is sick we prefer to try an approach that is less pharmaceutically based. It has happened on several occasions that we have needed a prescription and our Primary Care ND has to refer me to another clinic in order to get a basic pharmaceutical prescribed. This is not only extremely inconvenient, it's also an additional expense for us.

Having looked at the statute that dictates what an ND can do in the State of Alaska, I am appalled that my ND is being restricted by a statute that was written in the 1980s. Why is this and why can't we let my primary care doctor do what she is trained to do? Keeping a profession trapped 30+ years behind the times is ridiculous and creates a large cost that does not need to be there.

I support HB91 because it will let me go to a doctor that takes the time to hear my concerns and it will increase the ability of Alaskans to have access to healthcare that is not limited by unrealistic concerns.

Thank you for your time, and for giving me the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Best regards,
Zaneta Stetsunova
[REDACTED]

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

February 25, 2020

To: Alaska House Labor & Commerce Committee / Chair Sponholz, and Members of the Committee
(Reps. Stutes, Fields, Hannan, Story, Gillis and Rasmussen):

I **fully support HB-91** as a clear, concise and comprehensive statute that will give Naturopaths the structure needed to practice to the full extent of the training level they choose within a scope of practice defined by the profession.

You will find much testimony from me in the record in support of improvement of the ND statute and regulations to reflect a scope of practice in line with their training going back to 2003, and every time the subject has come up since. I won't repeat myself now as the record is overflowing with positive testimony from all aspects (patients and practitioners).

I believe your committee has a duty to promote a free market that maximizes competition by properly trained professionals. I also believe that the "tools" used by a profession (including "prescriptive" and other authority) should be determined by the regulated profession themselves ... not a competing profession. The pharmacy should be fully-utilized for the benefit of consumers.

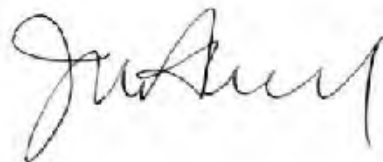
Any concerns about "safety" should be comforted by Supreme Court Justice Kennedy's response in "North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission", a 2015 anti-trust case, citing the Hippocratic Oath: "those who pursue a calling must embrace ethical standards that derive from a duty separate from the dictates of the state" (i.e. practitioners have their own inherent ethical duty). Let the "regulatory" process take care of safety.

As I age (I'm 70 now), I believe I deserve the option of receiving the maximum level of treatment here in my home state of Alaska, but I am also a proactive consumer who believes healthcare is my #1 priority ... so I go where I can get what I feel is the best care for me, ... which has unfortunately meant going "outside" at times and spending well over \$40,000 that could have stayed in AK.

Please pass this bill out of committee promptly and move it into law for the benefit of us, Alaskan consumers.

Sincerely, /w.a./

Homer, AK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Homer", is written over a light blue circular stamp that contains the text "HB-91".