



## Alaska Veterinary Pathology Services

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Senator Cathy Giessel through [jane.conway@akleg.gov](mailto:jane.conway@akleg.gov)

RE: Senate Bill 44

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 44 which will allow licensed Naturopathic Doctors to practice medicine as they were trained to do, including the ability to prescribe medications, and perform minor office procedures including sutures, skin lesion removals, etc. Their training has more than qualified them to do this tasks. My naturopathic doctor, Dr. Wiggins and other providers at Vitae Integrative services have helped me with some of my health much more that "traditional" MDs. They treat the whole person vs one part of their physiology and health, reducing the need to see multiple doctors, which often don't talk to each other. I am surprised and frustrated with their restrictions in Alaska. These limitations negatively affect our community's access to healthcare. Licensed Naturopathic doctors are primary care doctors, however they must refer patients to other healthcare professionals for prescriptive treatments. This results in patients requiring two appointments and increases cost for medical care. Due to limited availability of healthcare providers, patients must often wait long periods before obtaining the prescriptions or care that they require. These issues can be easily be avoided by allowing Naturopathic doctors to practice to the extent of their training and skill through the passage of Senate Bill 44. Dr. Wiggins was previously licensed in Arizona, and performed many office procedures and was able to prescribe medication, all of which she isn't allowed to in AK. Dr. Wiggins' approach to medicine is to use the least invasive and most effective treatment modality for each healthcare concern. Much of the time, this can be provided without the use of medications. However, there are cases in which a prescriptive agent is appropriate treatment, In these cases, her patients should not have to see a separate provider, when Dr. Wiggins in trained, and knowledgeable, and able to provide needed care. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Kathy Burek Huntington  
DVM, MS, diplomate ACVP