

Emails of Support 02-21-22

Senate Bill 44 Naturopathy

TO: Senator Cathy Geissel

Re: SB 44

My name is Kerry Howard, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our 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.

I have been receiving care from a naturopathic doctor, Dr. Emily Kane, for many years and my experience has always been extremely positive. Dr. Kane has helped me with both acute and chronic health conditions, and I value her experience and expertise.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of SB 44, and for taking another step towards better healthcare in our great state.

Sincerely--Ms. Kerry Howard

To: Senator Cathy Geissel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Mary Cordry and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our 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.

I have been receiving care from a naturopathic doctor and my experience has been [insert personal experience here].

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44, and for taking one step toward better healthcare in our great state.

Sincerely, Mary Cordry

My name is John Drips and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our 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.

I have been receiving care from a naturopathic doctor and my experience has been that in addition to receiving care from them, I must also see another doctor in order to receive needed medication. This results in unnecessary costs for the insurance company, the health care system, and myself.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44, and for taking one step toward better healthcare in our great state.

Sincerely,
-- John Drips

██████████
"Be kind to me or treat me mean, I'll make the most of it, I'm an extraordinary machine"

To: Senator Cathy Giessel
Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Donna Jefferson, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB 44), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states around the country. Given our 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.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44, and for taking one step toward better healthcare in our great state.

Sincerely, Donna Jefferson

To Senator Cathy Giessel
Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Catherine Smith, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB44) which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic doctors in many other states. With Alaska's unique healthcare challenges, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

I have been receiving care from a naturopathic doctor for many, many years. My care has been excellent. I have used naturopathic doctors as my primary care providers for over 20 years after my primary care MD retired. My care has been thorough, comprehensive, and complete.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44 and for taking a step toward better health care in our state.

Sincerely,
Catherine Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

My name is Caroleen Monnseratt, I am a Licensed Massage Therapist working in Anchorage, Alaska, and I am writing to you to SUPPORT SENATE BILL 44 (SB 44). This bill updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB 44 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by Naturopathic Doctors in many other states around the country. Given Alaska's unique healthcare challenges, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide Alaskans with more options and greater access to affordable care.

Now, in Alaska, Naturopathic Doctors have a limited scope of practice than other health care providers with equal or lesser training. With the passing of SB 44 bill Naturopathic Doctors can practice to their full scope of their training. It will let patients access their medications from the primary care providers without the need for duplicative appointments and costs.

I have received care from a Naturopathic Doctors in the past. They are the only ones that helped me with a hormone issue.

PLEASE, Senator Giessel, support this bill. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this e-mail.

Namaste'
Caroleen T. Monnseratt, BP, LMT, NCTMB

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am in full support for Naturopathic doctors to be granted prescriptive rights. Currently, if a patient needs a prescription, they need to try to get on a schedule with a general practitioner to obtain a prescription they need for their health. This is extremely limiting and stressful for the patient as they have as they have to wait days to weeks for an appointment. This causes a stop and delay in their medical care needs. As getting into another provider is very difficult the patient has to research for a provider that has an opening and in network for their insurance plan. Then after waiting many days to weeks for an appointment, they have to financially pay for a second office visit. This method of care is NOT helpful for patients' health. It has a negative impact on a patient's health, finances, and their overall wellbeing. I'm aware of the negative impact as I'm a patient at Vitae. I am one of the many patients that if my doctor at Vitae had prescriptive rights that this would positively benefit my overall health. Currently, it places me in the position that I have to forego appropriate medication due to the increased cost of scheduling another doctor appointment. I fully support making a positive change to help patients and our community live healthier lives. By passing SB44 this would allow Naturopathic doctors to treat and prescribe necessary prescriptions for their patients at the time of their appointment. I'm asking to please pass SB 44.

Warm regards, Michelle Sanford

From: Rod and Bonnie Wheelers [REDACTED]
Date: February 19, 2023 at 4:34:05 PM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB44

Senator Giessel,

My name is Bonnie Wheelers and I am writing today in support of SB 44, the bill you sponsored in support of increasing the scope of practice for licensed Naturopathic Doctors in the state of Alaska.

I am a patient of Dr. Natalie Wiggins, N.D. and consider her my Primary Care Physician. The fact that she is not allowed to write prescriptions has forced me to see an MD for the sole purpose of getting my prescription medicine. This is costly and a waste of my time and money. I am 68 years old, retired and quite frankly don't understand why these licensed physicians are being limited in their ability to care for patients by not being allowed to write prescriptions when the need arises. I fully trust Dr. Wiggins and have been her patient since 2019. If this bill passes, I will no longer need my current MD on my care team. That will save me money, time and the extra effort of keeping her informed of all I am doing under the care of Dr. Wiggins.

I fully support SB 44 and ask that you continue to fight for its passage.

Alternative medicine has been a huge help to me through some big health issues I have. I value my freedom to choose what type of doctor I see and ask that you help support that freedom by giving Naturopathic Doctors the prescription writing privilege that Medical Doctors enjoy.

Respectfully yours,

Bonnie Wheelers

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516

My name is Susan Conlin and I urge you to support SB 44 that would allow Naturopathic Doctors to practice the full scope of their training and education. I have had a Naturopath for 35 years in Anchorage. Dr Wing and then Dr. Lenger have helped me beyond measure over the years while most MD's have limited knowledge of holistic health. Naturopaths are very willing to refer to and consult with MD's if need be but should be able to act as primary care physicians, especially the ability to prescribe. I would love that choice. Please visit a Naturopath and experience their knowledge, experience, and compassionate care. When was the last time a physician spent an hour really listening? Try it before you limit their practice and my right to access complete care. Thank you.

Dear Alaskan Representatives,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 44.

I am a practicing physician assistant in Alaska who currently has the pleasure and privilege of working in a practice with Dr. Natalie Wiggins. She often refers her patients to me for medical treatment that she cannot provide due to the State of Alaska's license restrictions for Naturopaths. I was trained as a physician assistant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at Chatham University. During my time at Chatham, one of the most valuable faculty at my PA school was Dr. John Laird, who is now retired. He was a practicing Naturopath that oversaw the Integrative Cancer Center at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. I learned the majority of the anatomy and pathophysiology of health and medicine from this brilliant doctor. Fluid and electrolyte balance, the angiotensin pathway, structure, and function (in depth), etc all from this man. I later worked alongside faculty at the Alaska Family Medicine Residency, my training and depth of knowledge prepared me for being Junior Faculty, a rare thing as a physician assistant, at a ACGME accredited Family medicine residency; the only Alaska medical residency training program. This residency prepares and trains the majority of physicians that work in Alaska. In my time at the residency, I continued to learn and teach alongside medical physicians whose skills were built serving Alaskans. I have since worked in a few rural places in Alaska and with Alaska Natives. I later completed a fellowship in Integrative Medicine and was re-educated on the importance of not working in silos in medicine; to work in collaboration with one another is key to our patients' health - not working individually or against one another.

I have prescriptive authority that matches my collaborative physician's (Dr. Nellie Nadeau) medical license and training in Alaska. It was a part of my training to be able to perform certain procedures and write prescriptions based on my collaborative physician's license. However, Naturopaths have both the training and licensure that allows them to knowledgeably treat their patients with or without pharmaceuticals or specific procedures independently. However, specific states, like Alaska have restricted this, which is demeaning to their training and ability to knowledgeably and skillfully treat their patients that is within their scope of practice. In Alaska there is a shortage of primary care medicine, and in my opinion, Naturopaths should be first in line to help patients heal, as they use less medicine in their approach and allow the patients to find ways to heal without medicines often times. However, we all know in medicine that some patients require pharmaceutical grade medicines with specific medications (i.e., uncontrolled hypertension as an example). It is inconvenient for patients to see a doctor and not be able to receive the treatments that they are trained to provide.

I am in full support of Senate Bill 44, so my colleague can treat her patients because her training is adequate, her knowledge is unparalleled, and her patients deserve the benefit of their chosen doctor being able to do so. Sincerely, Alisa Vickrey, MPAS, PA-C, FIAHM

To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Catherine Straub, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 44 (SB44), to update the scope and practice for Naturopathic doctors to fully reflect their education and training.

My Naturopathic doctor (ND) is an integral part of my health care team. As a cancer survivor, I am grateful to my Naturopathic health care team for helping me to regain and maintain my health. Yet there is so much more my ND could do for me and I remain aggravated that, despite the training and education of NDs, the State of Alaska is limiting their productivity. This often results in having to seek other medical help when my ND is unnecessarily restricted by outdated laws.

The changes proposed in SB44 reflect a scope of practice that is being safely implemented effectively by Naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Health care costs in Alaska are among the highest in the country. I do not have employer subsidized health care, nor do I qualify for a subsidy on the ACA healthcare exchange. As a result, I pay large premiums for sub-standard health insurance. The burden on my family and other families in a similar situation is a drag on our economy for dollars that could be spent more effectively in our state. SB44 is a step in the right direction, providing consumers like me with more options and access to affordable care.

Allowing Naturopathic physicians to do what they are trained for will benefit me, other consumers like me, and the State of Alaska. Driving down health care costs through increased competition and better access to preventative care, only makes sense. Please support SB44. Thank you for taking a step towards better health care in our great State.

Sincerely,

Catherine Straub
