

February 20, 2023

To: Senate – HSS Committee Ref: **SB-44** / Naturopaths/ **IN SUPPORT**

Chair Wilson, and Members of the Committee:


I believe the Sponsor, Sen. Giessel, along with Co-Sponsors Kawasaki and Myers, have fine-tuned the last version of this bill (SB-38) so that the few remaining minor improvements that could be justified are now incorporated.

I have observed and participated in the painstaking progress that has been made (over the last 20+ years!) in this effort to put Naturopathic Physicians in a position in Alaska that is commensurate with their training. I also have first-hand experience as a patient-consumer with at least 8 NDs during this period (3 from outside AK where they had a much more extensive Scope of Practice; 5 from AK). And I would be happy to testify on my positive experiences with all these NDs, in detail, if that would ever be helpful in getting this bill “over the line”.

I am hopeful that the last of the unfounded and fear-based opposition has finally been laid to rest so that Alaska residents (consumers) may be entitled to all the healthcare services we deserve, as well as the ability to spend our healthcare dollars in our home state to the maximum extent we choose.

I realize the importance of “patient safety” in your deliberations on healthcare legislation and can assure you that from my experiences as a patient, naturopathic physicians keep “first, do no harm” at the most prominent place on their dashboard in our collaborative treatment decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Aderhold', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wayne Aderhold
Homer, AK