

**Emails of Support for Senate Bill 44 – Naturopathy**  
**02-20-23**

**Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,**

My name is Robbin La Vine 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.

**I am GRATEFUL for the thoughtful care I and my whole family have received through our naturopathic doctor.** We have received the full scope of a lifetime's worth of care. My doctor spends an hour with me during my annual visit, tracking changes and symptoms and developing a wellness plan that may include referrals to other healthcare specialists. The amount of time my doctor spends on assessment and check ins with me exceeds any I have experienced outside of their practice. I am lucky to have federal Blue Cross Blue Shield healthcare which covers this essential care. My father, who is on Medicare, does not have the luxury of selecting an attentive, single sourced practitioner as few are accepting Medicare and Medicare doesn't contract with naturopaths.

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, Robbin La Vine

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Hi, my name is Larry Emerton and I am writing in support of SB 44. I have a Naturopathic doctor as well as a GP and have had good care from both. I am a firm believer in integrative medicine and think that there is a place for both traditional and naturopathic medicine in Alaska. My Naturopath tends to look for the underlying cause of issues, rather than just treating symptoms and I have had good outcomes by digging deeper into the complaint. I am hoping that the legislature will see the value of the Naturopathic community and pass SB 44.

Thank you,  
Larry Emerton, Anchorage, AK

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Hello,

I am writing in my support of Senate Bill 44. This bill would streamline my medical care and reduce the number of appointments. Personally, it would be more comfortable for me to have a doctor I see regularly and know also be able to perform pap smears as well as birth control options like IUD insertion which in the past I had to go to another clinic because MD Wiggins was unable to provide this service.

Thank you for your time.

Ivy Ivanoff, Life-long Alaskan, home owner and Registered Nurse

Dear Representatives of Alaska,

I would like to express how important it is to pass SB44.

I have received incredible care from many naturopathic doctors. I seek naturopathic medicine as my primary care support system whenever I need to address a malady/disease I am experiencing. Not only do Naturopathic doctors find solutions to assist my body back into homeostatic balance, they also always take the time to educate me on future prevention techniques and lifestyle changes that will help me avoid issues from repeating. So important. This type of thorough holistic care is not something I have honestly EVER experienced when seeking medical help from the Western medical model of medicine. I value and need holistic health care, and these educated Naturopathic doctors need to be available and accessible in our communities, to better support and care for the health and well-being of Alaskans.

Thank you for helping to pass SB44 and supporting the health of Alaskans.

Best, Kaila Buerger

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To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Carla (Ky) Hollingsworth.

Please lend your vital support to Senate Bill 44 to establish a clear scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors to match the level of education and training they receive.

Currently many states do allow Naturopathic doctors to use the complete scope of training. I sincerely want my Naturopathic Doctor to be able to do the same so that I can stop seeing two practitioners for my primary health care and medication prescriptions. When I have to use two providers this wastes my time, takes me away from work and family and increases healthcare costs by generating multiple appointments.

My son and I go to Naturopaths because they work in a preventative approach and have a wealth of nutritional knowledge far beyond what I experience with the Nurse practitioner I see for the prescriptions I need.

Alaska is facing a shortage of primary care providers. The US Department of Labor recognizes Naturopathic doctors as primary care physicians. This makes sense since naturopathic doctors graduate from federally accredited 4-year naturopathic medical programs with more than 4,000 hours of training and clinical rotations.

It isn't efficient that naturopathic doctors in Alaska have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers in Alaska with equal or lesser training. Naturopathic doctors practice safely under the complete scope in many other states. The preventative focus of Naturopathic Doctors can directly affect the increasing prevalence of chronic and preventable health issues for Alaskans

Regulating naturopathic doctors appropriately will encourage more practitioners to move to Alaska and serve Alaskans. Naturopathic doctors qualify for Indian Health Service's national loan repayment program aimed to

increase access to remote Alaskans but are unable to make use of this program due to the currently limited scope of practice. Alaska's population is aging and we need to be able to care for our elders, whether in a big city or in rural areas.

Again, please support SB 44 to extend the scope of practice allowed for Naturopathic Doctors. It's one of the most safe and effective ways to address the need for health care in Alaska.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44.

Sincerely, Carla (Ky) Hollingsworth

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Dear Senator Geissel,

I am writing in support of 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, naturopaths should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

My husband, our children, and I have received care from naturopaths in Juneau and in Seattle, Washington since our thirty-something year old children were in diapers. Naturopaths have served as our primary health providers through a large part of our lives. Dr. Neary in Juneau cared for our children's ear infections and bronchitis when they were little. Dr. Kane has provided guidance and care for my husband's Type II diabetes and Parkinson's Disease. She has steered us to alternative therapies, including Rock Steady Boxing, which has made a world of difference in his quality of life. For me, Dr. Kane provided essential care throughout menopause and the osteopenia which accompanied it. She offered prolotherapy when I faced a hip replacement, allowing me an additional four comfortable years of exercise and walking on my bone-on-bone hip, which was eventually replaced. We're very grateful for these doctors, who have made such significant contributions to the health and welfare of the members of our family.

In addition, my husband and I attended a "summer camp" for adults with Parkinson's Disease at Bastyr University in Kirkland, Washington for a week. Organized by Dr. Laurie Mischley, ND, the camp was a scholarly training course, taught by MDs and NDs from all over the country. It illustrated the breadth and depth of conventional medical and naturopathic practice coming together to make life better for Parkinson's patients. At the "camp," we explored exercise clinics, lectures on physiology and demonstrations of upcoming PD treatments and therapies. It was an extraordinary learning opportunity for us, as patient/caregiver, to benefit from a wide array of experts working together to better our lives. We'd rejoice to see this sort of event happen in Alaska, but first our state must recognize the depth of education and training our naturopaths bring to their work. And it is considerable!

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

Sincerely, Luann McVey, Retired Alaskan Teacher    1507 Second Street, Douglas, Alaska. 99824

To: Senator Cathy Giessel,

My name is Cecil L. Moreno and I am writing to urge you to support SB 44. This Bill will greatly update the scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors to reflect their education and training.

I have been receiving care from a Naturopathic Doctor for 39 years.

I have experienced medical support from Medical Senior Care Programs at Providence Hospital and Regional Hospital in Anchorage over the past years and with each experience, these programs have faltered and deactivated. I have been grateful for the continuous support of my Naturopathic Doctor. Unfortunately, even though the medical training of my Naturopathic Doctor is equal to many medical practitioners, I cannot obtain a prescription for medicines and must make additional appointments to obtain medicines for my health needs.

I also find my appointment needs are more readily met without the exceeding long delay of appointments with a Medical Program.

I appreciate your support of SB 44.

Respectfully,

Cecil L. Moreno

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Dear Senator Giessel

Thank you for sponsoring sensible legislation to quickly bring seasoned primary care providers to our great state. As you know Naturopathic Doctors are well trained as gate keeper providers and excel at orienting patients to renew commitments to basic parameters of good health: salutary diet, good sleep habits, regular exercise, positive attitude. Many conventionally trained doctors with high overhead including expensive malpractice insurance are constrained by time and cannot dig into the day-to-day habits of their patients, which often means the underlying cause of poor health are not uncovered, nor addressed.

I have been providing naturopathic medical services for 30 years in Juneau and I continue to have a busy practice despite basically providing service with one hand tied behind my back. Patients are so very hungry for health care which doesn't reflexively involve pharmaceuticals. My standard of care does not mandate a statin the minute a patient's total cholesterol reaches 200. As you well know, cardiovascular health (and disease) is significantly more complex than the number 200. This provides an example of why NDs build in much more time to their patient interactions than typical MDs can afford to.

For the CPT code 99214 I spend at least 60 minutes face to face with each patient. This allows me to discuss what they are eating, how they are sleeping, what they do for exercise, the details of their bowel function, etc. Working this is very satisfying both for me and for my patients.

However, occasionally I see an acute E. Coli UTI and need to prescribe Nitrofurantoin. It is so aggravating to have to refer the patient to urgent care or another provider, require them to spend another \$200, and delay care. NDs have on average 20-40% more training in pharmacology than nurse practitioners. However, NPs have a much broader scope of practice including full prescriptive authority. This is a political issue — nothing to do with competency. NPs simply have more lobby power. NDs are also thoroughly trained in minor surgery procedures and charge significantly less than an MD would for, say, removing a mole and sending it to pathology.

I appreciate your attention, and your advocacy for this worthy cause. Please call on my if I can provide further evidence or support.

Sincerely, Dr. Emily Kane, Juneau AK Cell (907) 723-5599 Be well! [www.DrEmilyKane.com](http://www.DrEmilyKane.com)

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To whom it may concern...

Senate Bill 44 provides licensed Naturopathic doctors to practice medicine in such a way that reflects their education and training, allowing them to perform minor office procedures like sutures, wart removal; and issue vitamins minerals and non-controlled prescription medications. The current Alaskan law severely limits the scope of practice for licensed Naturopathic doctors, and these laws do not reflect their education and training. The current restrictive scope of practice is more limited than other healthcare providers in the state with equal or lesser training. 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 easily be avoided by allowing Naturopathic doctors to practice to the extent of their training and skill. Senate Bill 44 reflects the scope of practice that is standard in many other states and allows Naturopathic doctors to successfully practice to the extent of their capability.

Dr. Wiggins was previously licensed in Arizona, and performed office procedures that include suturing wounds, removing toenails removing skin lesions, removing IUDs and administering injections and vaccines. Additionally, she held a DEA license, permitting prescriptive authority for schedule II/IIIN, III, IV, and V medications, in addition to all non-prescribed medications. In Alaska Dr. Wiggins is limited in her practice, and unable to assist her patients with any of the above. 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 is trained, and knowledgeable, and able to provided needed care. Naturopathic doctors are trained to provide care for acute medical needs. However, without prescriptive authority, sick patients must often wait to get in with a new provider for antibiotics, etc.

Heather Poe RD, LD [poepoeheather@gmail.com](mailto:poepoeheather@gmail.com)

## **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

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**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

(415) 76-DRIPS

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

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**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

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**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

[csmithfuture@gmail.com](mailto:csmithfuture@gmail.com)  
629 Oceanview Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99515

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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  
[caroleen@gci.net](mailto:caroleen@gci.net)  
(907) 301-2186 – cell/text  
(907) 333-8225 – work/home

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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

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**From:** Rod and Bonnie Wheelles <[wheelles@gci.net](mailto:wheelles@gci.net)>

**Date:** February 19, 2023 at 4:34:05 PM AKST

**To:** "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** SB44

Senator Giessel,

My name is Bonnie Wheelles 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 Wheelles

11000 Polar Drive, Anchorage, AK 99516

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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.

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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

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**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

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## Emails of Support for SB 44 Naturopathy Batch #3 02-24-23

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

My name is Sarah Gonzalez 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. Megan Danz, and my experience has been paramount to my health and wellbeing. Dr. Danz has not only assisted me in managing my underactive thyroid resulting in anxiety with simple supplements, but also my daughter. Dr. Danz has provided me and my daughter with personalized care and she has been on a journey with us that ultimately led to the diagnosing of my daughter who we found out has Turner Syndrome. My daughter has a pediatrician and other physicians that care for her, but it was Dr. Danz that made sure we got the testing needed in a timely manner and was in constant communication with us throughout our journey. I am forever grateful for her care for both my daughter and I and it would be detrimental to the community Dr. Danz serves if her services weren't recognized by the state of Alaska as a qualified service.

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

Sincerely,  
Sarah Gonzalez, OTD, OTR/L Doctorate of Occupational Therapy  
7700 E Woodview Way, Palmer, AK 99645

**Sarah Gonzalez, OTD, OTR/L** – *Occupational Therapist*

**Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**  
[sarah.gonzalez@matsuk12.us](mailto:sarah.gonzalez@matsuk12.us)

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From: Office Manager <[OfficeManager@naturalmedak.com](mailto:OfficeManager@naturalmedak.com)>  
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 10:22 AM  
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: SB 44

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

I am writing to request that you lend your support to updating licensing laws for naturopathic medicine in Alaska, specifically SB 44.

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.

My naturopathic doctor works with me to keep my need for prescription medicines to a minimum while addressing the underlying issues that caused my condition in the first place.

This is a consumer rights issue. Naturopathic doctors have been licensed in Alaska since 1986 and this is my choice of family doctor.

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

Sincerely,  
Sherry Miller  
**Sherry Miller Office Manager/Certified Medical Assistant**  
**907-694-5522 907-694-5524(f)**

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Dear Senator Giessel and Esteemed Colleagues,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 44

I have safely practiced naturopathic medicine as a licensed ND for the last 20 years. I focus on family medicine with a specialty in allergy treatment. It is particularly important to me to be able to prescribe epinephrine auto injectors for my allergy patients, as they are not safe without them. It can be difficult to convince a patient to see another doctor for the additional expense and time of a visit to get that prescription. Some of my patients live remotely and are far from acute care. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, they could die without the epinephrine auto injectors.

I have lived in Alaska for several decades now and have watched our state loose many highly effective naturopathic doctors to other states with broader practice abilities. Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I appreciate the work that has been put into it this year and in years past.

Sincerely,

Amy Williamson, ND  
Dr. Amy Williamson ND Fairbanks Family Wellness 3550 Airport Way Suite 4 Fairbanks, AK 99709  
907 479-2331

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Good afternoon, Senator Giessel --

I am a grateful Alaskan imploring you to please add my support to Senate Bill 44 even though I personally am already mercifully covered as a veteran with spectacular health care coverage through the V.A.

I have exceptionally dear and vulnerable friends whose quality of life has been immeasurably enhanced by the long-term staving off chronic pain thanks, uniquely, to devoted and highly skilled artisans of the Naturopath profession.

A personal anecdote that really underscores the fact that Naturopathy, and all forms of support, belongs next to -- not below -- the noble devotion of all in the medical profession:

In my mid-20s, a robust outdoorsman, I sustained an unrelenting pain in my right wrist that for the next 7 months of repeated trips to my medical doctor resulted in an x-ray followed by a series of pain prescriptions. Alas, the enhanced frequency of such trips eventually drove me to consider acupuncture and, as it happens, I first went to a chiropractor. Senator Giessel, a single 20-minute massage with my right hand and along my arm and shoulder resulted in a cessation of pain. Permanently. Now, 45 years later, I can say that I never once have had a recurrence of that "carpal tunnel syndrome" experience, and I have been extremely active in mountaineering ever since. I just wish the V.A. would broaden its scope to include Naturopathy but until such time I want to add my voice to all support of Naturopathy which for too long has been kept from alleviating untold suffering which "modern medicine" has simply stood blank-faced behind the standard retort, "here is yet another pain prescription".

Thank you, Senator Giessel, for all that you do.

Brent Hughes 1511 Turpin St. Anchorage, AK. 99504

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Senator Conway,

My name is Dr Zachary Gibson 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 know several of the NDs in Alaska and they are smart and capable providers that can offer services in a needed area in our community.

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

Sincerely,

Zachary Gibson DO Emergency Physician

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Hi Senator Giessel,

I can't empathize this enough. Please be on the side of natural medicine doctors. I very much prefer them over conventional medicine. I have had great personal help from one here in Alaska. Please make the right choice!!

Kind regards,  
Lydia Kimball

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

My name is Darren McGrevy 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 an Alaska naturopathic doctor and my experience has been excellent. I've received better care through a naturopathic doctor compared to previous experiences with modern medicine and pharmaceuticals. My body and psyche are still healing from damage previously caused by prescribed pharmaceutical medications. Naturopathy is helping me heal without harmful effects from those medications.

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

Sincerely,  
Darren McGrevy Eagle River, AK resident

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Senator Giessel, regarding SB 44, my wife and I have been Naturopathic patients for many years. We have found that Allopathic and Naturopathic doctors certainly have their different approaches to treating a patient, but they both have great importance to our overall wellness. We strongly encourage support of this bill in that it would make it possible to receive a more comprehensive treatment from our Naturopath and would increase the number of primary physicians available in Alaska. This would also help to reduce the workload of our overworked doctors and provide them the opportunity to provide more attentive care to their patients' needs.

We find that it is extremely shocking that it can literally take 2-3 months to get in to see a doctor in Homer, rather than going to the ER at our hospital for non-emergency treatment. We also understand that already in the lower 48, many states allow Naturopaths a much broader practice than in Alaska.

Again, lessening the demands presently faced by traditional AMA doctors, and perhaps, encouraging more practitioners to move into our state.

We ask you to please support SB 44 for all the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,  
Stuart Schmutzler and Joy Steward

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Dear Senator Giessel and Esteemed Colleagues,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 44.

I have been safely practicing medicine in Fairbanks as a licensed naturopathic doctor since 2011. I see a wide range of patients with a special focus on mental health, digestive issues, and women's health. I also work within an intensive outpatient treatment program for substance use disorders.

I am a lifelong Alaskan with two children in local schools. My husband is active-duty Air Force and will be retiring in Alaska. We are here for the long haul, and I would appreciate the ability to provide more thorough healthcare to my patients to match my extensive training and experience.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I know many of you have been working with us on this issue for years now and I am very grateful for your ongoing support.

In Health,

Suzette Mailloux ND Fairbanks Family Wellness office (907)479-2331 cell (907)378-6976

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To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Jamie Neel. 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.

My life, my health has personally been changed through Naturopathic care. I had been paying out of pocket for Naturopathic care for years before receiving insurance that covers a broader range of medical services to include Naturopathic. Naturopathic doctors have extensive training - treating the whole person. Not only has my health drastically improved under the care of a Naturopathic doctor, it has also led me to pursue a career in alternative medicine. Alaskans deserve more affordable healthcare options. Alaskans are seeking alternative therapies through Naturopathic doctors.

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

Sincerely,  
Jamie Neel 2523 S Edgewood Cir Wasilla, AK 99654

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Senator Giessel,

I am writing to support Senate Bill 44. I have used Naturopathic Doctors for 35 years. I began using them when my son was 4 years old and traditional medical doctors would not consider food allergies as the cause of his frequent ear infections. For 3 years the traditional doctors prescribed antibiotics. By the time my son was 4, he would receive a round of antibiotics, recover and within a few weeks have another ear infection. He was



pale and sickly. Tubes were recommended and I declined after meeting the surgeon. I found Wayne Tashe who immediately recommend that my son be taken off all antibiotics, wheat, dairy and animal products. I thought this very drastic. However, both myself and my son adopted a diet of rice and vegetables. Within a week, my son was gaining color, energy and looked much healthier. He went 11 months without another ear infection. During this time I found the Naturopathic doctors. With the focus shifted to prevention and natural interventions, both my son and I began the journey of natural healing. We gradually reintroduced all foods except dairy and wheat. By age 10, my son had mostly outgrown the allergies and is now quite healthy and eats all foods.

I worked for a Native Corporation from January 1995 to July of 2010. I traveled extensively to their remote villages. Medical care was almost nonresistant. The cost of flying roundtrip and staying in Anchorage was ridiculous. Basic routine care was often sacrificed. The care they did receive was traditional western medicine. Not always the right solution. I often recommended they seek a second opinion. However, medical insurance would not cover a Naturopathic doctor.

Medical insurance was also an issue for me and my son. I paid out of pocket for years. Once insurance began to cover an office visit, I discovered that although my Naturopath could order a blood test, read the test and give me a diagnosis, they could Not write me a prescription! I was forced to either switch doctors and use a system that did not meet my needs or see my Naturopath And another doctor to get a prescription. My insurance covered 4 visits a year. I had to use 2 visits to accomplish what should have been accomplished in just 1 visit.

I am now retired, and I cannot afford Medicare. I am therefore without medical insurance. I still need a medication. I am still forced to choose between a Naturopath that I have seen for 30 years and changing doctors or using 2 providers. I am incensed that myself and many others have been put in this situation because Naturopaths in Alaska are not allowed the same scope of practice as Naturopaths in other states even though they have received that same medical training.

Please pass Senate Bill 44. Allow Alaskans to benefit from the knowledge, experience and alternatives that Naturopathic doctors offer. Encourage Naturopathic doctors to move to Alaska to relieve that shortage we are experiencing particularly in rural Alaska.

We will all benefit from broadening the scope of practice for Naturopaths. Certainty, this will lower costs, wait times, and improve the health of all Alaskans.

Thank you for sponsoring this important bill. Please inform me of opportunities to give public testimony.

In gratitude,

Karen Gonne'-Harrell 1566 Medfra St. Unit A Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 301-4566

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**To: Senator Cathy Giessel**

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 44**

My name is Gigi Lynch 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 for over 16 years and my experience has been far and away better than any I've experienced elsewhere with regular MDs. Naturopaths treat the whole person, not just the symptoms, and offer a level of care that should be made available to all Alaskans.

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

Sincerely,

Gigi Lynch Anchorage, Alaska

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**February 22, 2023**

**To: Senator Cathy Giessel**

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 44**

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Marsha Williams 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, for the last 9 years and my experience has been excellent!

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

Sincerely,  
Marsha Williams, MIT Music Teacher Eagle River, Alaska

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Dear Ms. Conway,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 44. I have been a patient of Homeopathic doctors for over 30 years. I raised my children in Alaska and our Naturopath was our "family doctor". This bill is vital to the health of Alaskans and their families. It will expand the scope of practice for Naturopathic practitioners, which is currently one of the most restrictive in the country.

SB 44 establishes a clear scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors that reflects their education and training. The current law is outdated and limits the ability of naturopathic doctors to provide more comprehensive care for patients. This leads to unnecessary and costly referrals. Among other things, the bill allows licensed practitioners to issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications and perform minor office procedures.

Furthermore, Alaska is presently facing a shortage in primary care providers. Allowing naturopathic doctors to practice the full scope of their training will immediately increase the number of primary care providers in Alaska. This will improve healthcare access and help drive down costs.

Alaskans suffer from 1) some of the highest health care costs in the nation, 2) increasing prevalence of chronic and preventable disease, and 3) inadequate access to health care-particularly in rural areas. Passing SB 44 is one step towards addressing these needs.

Naturopathic doctors' primary focus is on disease prevention, rather than symptom and medication management. In the long run, this type of care saves money for consumers, insurers, and the state. It also decreases the utilization of health care (unnecessary ER visits, frequent med checks, and follow-up visits).

The US Department of Labor recognizes Naturopathic doctors as primary care physicians. ND training is extensive: 4 years of undergraduate school, at least 4 years of a federally accredited naturopathic medical school which includes at least 2 years of clinic shifts. In Alaska, naturopathic doctors have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers in Alaska with equal or lesser training.

Regulating naturopathic doctors appropriately will encourage more practitioners to move to Alaska and serve Alaskans. Naturopathic doctors qualify for Indian Health Service's national loan repayment program aimed to increase access to remote Alaskans but are unable to make use of this program due to the currently limited scope of practice.

Passing SB 44 will broaden the availability of quality healthcare to Alaskans.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Jan Newman 4281 N Slumber Drive Palmer, Alaska 99645 907.232.5016

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Senator Giessel,

I'd like to express my wholehearted support for the proposed Senate Bill 44 that updates and normalizes services that Naturopathic doctors and facilities can provide for their patients commensurate with their counterparts in the medical community writ large.

As a disabled veteran with a number of Service-related health problems, I can attest that naturopathic treatments, such as chiropractic manipulation, massage therapy, and acupuncture are very effective methodologies. I have also found that more natural solutions - rather than Western pharmaceuticals - to myriad health problems such as high blood pressure and cholesterol are often as (or more) effective and more easily tolerated as both immediate and longer-term treatment alternatives.

Unfortunately, these medical professionals are currently limited in the services they can provide and are often discounted by policy and insurance coverage. This Senate Bill will go a very long way in increasing their ability and opportunity to provide comprehensive health care options to their patients.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

V/R

Mark Blair COL, USA (ret) 907-201-0002 [mark.blair@aggienetwork.com](mailto:mark.blair@aggienetwork.com)

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**From:** Leanna <[leheffner@gmail.com](mailto:leheffner@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023 2:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel <[Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <[Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support for Senate Bill 44

Hello,

I am a Ph.D. scientist with the Northern Latitudes Partnerships, and also a patient with my primary care physician, Dr. Natalie Wiggins, who is a naturopathic doctor. As a trained scientist, I spent time doing research into what type of healthcare provider I wanted to work with, and Dr. Wiggins, like many other naturopathic doctors has a rigorous training and medical background that is comparable to other medical practitioners that prescribe medications.

It has been extremely frustrating that in Alaska, my primary care physician does not have access to provide the care that I need and deserve, and that I have to work with other providers to get the prescriptions that I need. As such I fully support Senate Bill 44, which would remove huge barriers to meeting my healthcare needs (including more cost to myself and my insurance for seeing other providers, time spent in other appointments, waiting longer for needed medications).

Thank you and I hope that the AK Legislature can quickly move this bill forward with strong support and improve the healthcare system in our state.

Leanna Heffner, Ph.D.  
Residence: 3258 Montpelier Ct, Anchorage, AK 99503

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Senator Geissel-

My name is Margaret (Margy) Hughes 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.

I am a lifelong Alaskan, originally from Sitka and now residing in the Government Hill area of Anchorage. Please feel free to share this email with my Anchorage Senator/ Representative and also Senator Stedman.

I support SB 44 as the changes proposed in it 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 utilized naturopathic medicine for close to 20 years, and I feel strongly that my relationship with my provider has enabled me to address health concerns early on; minimizing the need for pharmaceuticals and hospital interventions. Naturopathic medicine is very pro-active, addressing issues before they become 'concerns.' The ability to expand Naturopathic scope of practice will provide better healthcare to Alaskans and help reduce our rising co-morbidities of chronic diseases.

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

Sincerely, Margaret Hughes

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**To: Senator Cathy Giessel**

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 44**

My name is Alex Dreyer and I am a Naturopathic doctor who has been practicing at The Natural Health Center in Anchorage, AK since October 2021. 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.

I completed my training in Seattle, WA in which I was able to practice to the extent of my education, which includes prescription management of non-controlled substances and minor office procedures. Furthermore, I have successfully passed two licensing exams specific for pharmacology and minor office procedures, which are exams separate to our required physician licensing exams. I feel confident in my ability to safely manage medications for the variety of diseases seen in a primary care setting, such as hypertension, diabetes, hypothyroidism, contraceptive needs, and infections that warrant antibiotics, to name a few. I am also confident in knowing when my expertise is limited and have a good network of providers to refer to for specialized care.

I moved to Alaska to bring naturopathic and primary care to an area that was underserved. In my time in practice thus far, I have experienced multiple occasions in which lower-force interventions such as diet, herbs, or supplements have not been sufficient, and a medication has been needed. To give just one example, a mother of 6 came into my office with what ended up being a kidney infection from an untreated urinary tract infection. She had coordinated childcare for this appointment, so when it became clear that she needed antibiotics, but I could not prescribe them and therefore she needed to either go to urgent care or see her primary care doctor, she was unable to seek further medical attention until the next day due to scheduling and childcare needs. In a perfect scenario, I would have been able to prescribe her the treatment she needed, and she would not have had to a) pay for an additional doctor visit, b) coordinate additional childcare and, most importantly, c) delay treatment.

Beyond the impact this lack of scope has on the health, convenience, and finances of our patients, it is also important to our broader healthcare community here in Alaska. We have a shortage of primary care providers and patients are using the emergency room more frequently for primary care concerns because they cannot wait to see their primary care provider. Because of this, our ERs are overflowing and patients with true emergencies are not getting seen promptly because there are so many being seen for things that could easily have been managed in a primary care setting. By allowing Naturopathic doctors to practice to the extent of our scope, you are allowing patients to conveniently get the healthcare they need as well as lessening the burden on the rest of our healthcare community.

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

Sincerely, Dr. Alex Dreyer, ND, Lac

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TO: Senator Cathy Geissel  
Re. SB 44

My name is Audra Henderson. I am a Functional Nutritional Therapy Practitioner, a Nutrition Educator for the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and have a Master's in Public Health that I earned from the University of Alaska Anchorage. I am a lifelong Alaskan and am passionate about healthcare in Alaska.

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 and HAS BEEN for quite some time. 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, just as other states successfully do and have.

I have been receiving care from a naturopathic doctor since 2004 and my experience has been nothing short of a miracle. In fact, if it wasn't for the ND's I have seen, I wouldn't have the health I have today.

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

Sincerely,

Audra Henderson

*MPH, CPT, Nutritional Therapy Practitioner*

E\_ [info@audrawellness.com](mailto:info@audrawellness.com) W\_ [www.audrawellness.com](http://www.audrawellness.com)

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Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I am asking for your support on SB 44. This legislation would allow naturopathic doctors to be able to prescribe medications that they are trained to prescribe. Naturopathic doctors graduate from federally accredited medical schools that provide over four thousand hours of clinical training and rotations, including hundreds of hours in pharmacy and pharmacology. Many other states in this country allow naturopathic doctors to prescribe medications, but Alaska does not.

Recently I purchased a home in Alaska with the intent of starting a practice. I am licensed in Utah as well as Washington State and have been in practice for twenty-two years. In both of these states I am able to prescribe medications. Alaska is facing a shortage of primary care doctors. Allowing naturopathic physicians to prescribe medications will enable patients greater access to the care they need.

Thank you for supporting SB 44, and for all the work you do.

SINCERELY,

[DRALICEHOLMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DRALICEHOLMAN@GMAIL.COM) Dr. Alice Holman  
Naturopathic Physician and Acupuncturist  
[www.holmanhealth.com](http://www.holmanhealth.com)

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## **Senate Bill 44 Naturopathy**

### **Emails of Support**

#### **Batch #4 03.14.23**

03.08.23

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

My name is Alexandra Owen 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.

I am a practicing naturopathic physician in WA state. I was also born and raised in southeast Alaska.

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, including WA. 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.

If Alaska were to pass this bill and expand the scope of practice for NDs, I would be able to move back to my home state and provide the level of care that I have spent training for the past 6 years (4 years of medical school and 2 years of residency).

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Owen, ND

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03.08.23

To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Weston Hopkins 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 practicing as a Chiropractor in Anchorage for the past 13 years and have had the pleasure to work alongside many Naturopathic doctors. I have seen first-hand the much needed personalized treatment and patient outcomes that Naturopathic doctors bring to our community. This bill will also be a step in the right direction to reduce the strain of the primary care physician shortage in our community.

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

Sincerely,

Weston Hopkins, DC

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03.07.23

Hello,

I am a Ph.D. scientist with the Northern Latitudes Partnerships, and also a patient with my primary care physician, Dr. Natalie Wiggins, who is a naturopathic doctor. As a trained scientist, I spent time doing research into what type of healthcare provider I wanted to work with, and Dr. Wiggins, like many other naturopathic doctors has a rigorous training and medical background that is comparable to other medical practitioners that prescribe medications.

It has been extremely frustrating that in Alaska, my primary care physician does not have access to provide the care that I need and deserve, and that I have to work with other providers to get the prescriptions that I need. As such I fully support Senate Bill 44, which would remove huge barriers to meeting my healthcare needs (including more cost to myself and my insurance for seeing other providers, time spent in other appointments, waiting longer for needed medications).

Thank you and I hope that the AK Legislature can quickly move this bill forward with strong support and improve the healthcare system in our state.

Leanna Heffner, Ph.D.

Residence: 3258 Montpelier Ct, Anchorage, AK 99503

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03.06.23

Hi Cathy,

I am writing in support of SB 44. I offer a unique perspective as a primary care provider for 27 years and every year in practice, I have worked with an ND in my office. I have found them as a profession to be science based, and always professional.

I have no reservations at all about them working to the full extent of their training and being able to prescribe.

I believe it is time to make this happen, as AK needs more primary care providers and they definitely fill a niche of clients who need primary care and avoid the healthcare system for a myriad of reasons.

I am happy to answer any questions or be consulted.

Thanks for your work,

*Bethany Buchanan, DNP, FNP*

Avante Medical Center 907.770.6700 907.770.6707 fax

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03.06.23

To: Senator Jesse Kiehl

Re: SB 44

I am writing in support of SB 44 and hope that you will consider supporting this bill that would update the scope of 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 at the fore front of pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

As someone who works in the health care field, I can attest to the need for a variety of approaches to health and wellness that include holistic or functional perspectives like those offered by naturopaths. I personally have benefitted from the care of a naturopathic doctor and over the years have experienced high levels of professionalism and expertise from these providers. My first step when seeking care is to seek consultation with my naturopathic doctor and to at that appointment determine if a more medical approach is needed. I need both types of care and training.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 44. Beth Leban

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03.04.23

My name is Carolyn Tague 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 physician for the past 35+ years. Prevention of illness and creating a strong body are my primary goals. Under the care of naturopaths all these years, I am a healthy, strong, and vibrant 60-year- old woman.

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

Sincerely, Carolyn Tague

02.25.23

To: Senator Cathy Giessel

Re: Support for Senate Bill 44

My name is Cynthea L. Ainsworth 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 both very positive. I rely on naturopathic medicine.

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

Sincerely, Cynthea L. Ainsworth, Ph.D.

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03.14.23

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Bethany Berry. I have been a Certified Nurse Midwife for over 25 years with half of those here in Alaska. I received my nursing degree from Johns Hopkins University and my Master's in Nursing at Yale University. Although I have trained and practiced in a more recognized model of care, I embrace and support the care that Naturopathic Doctors bring to the landscape of medicine.

Naturopathic Doctors are experts at building relationships and trust with patients which leads to better care and health outcomes. Currently people have to wait for primary care services which often leads to postponed screening and preventative care. As a women's health care provider, I have seen firsthand how delayed care can lead to a cancer diagnosis. I have seen what happens when people cannot access care to family planning services. Most tragically, I have seen what happens when a person cannot see a primary care provider to discuss their mental health or addiction concerns. We need more primary care providers who can address these issues and help keep our families healthy and thriving.

By not granting full scope practice to Naturopathic Doctors, legislators are supporting the barriers that exist that negatively impact Alaskans. I want families to be able to get what they need from their provider. I want people to know that our legislators respect their choice of quality healthcare providers. Full scope practicing Naturopaths are making a difference in the lives of people in other states. Alaskans deserve the same. A vote for this bill will send a message that Alaska's legislators recognize the healthcare crisis we are experiencing and want to help find solutions. While this may not solve all our healthcare problems, it will be a big step in the right direction.

Thank you,

Bethany Berry, CNM      Anchorage, AK