

HB

326

<TARGET><BILL>HB 326</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
326</SUBJECT><COMM>HL&C30</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

"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."

To: Representative Kito, Chair

House Labor and Commerce Committee

From: Representative Tarr, Prime Sponsor

Date: February 14, 2018

I would like to request a hearing by the House Labor and Commerce Committee at your earliest convenience for HB326. Attached is the sponsor statement, most recent version of the bill, sectional analysis, and supporting documents.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geran Tarr".

Representative Geran Tarr

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 326 Naturopaths

Sponsor Statement

HB 326 establishes a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors, consistent with their nationally accredited education and training. In doing so, this bill will increase options, access and competition in Alaska's health care market.

Current law provides little definition of what naturopathic doctors can and cannot do. This has led to very conservative regulatory interpretations over the years, resulting in Alaska having some of the more restrictive regulations in the nation. The practicing environment has become so limited that some naturopaths have actually stopped practicing in Alaska and moved to more competitive markets.

HB 326 would correct this by outlining clear guidelines for regulators. Among other things, the bill allows licensed practitioners to perform minor office procedures, and issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications. This same scope is being practiced safely in many other states, and even by other health care providers in Alaska, with equal or lesser training.

Alaska has always been a difficult place for Naturopathic doctors to practice, but the real losers in this situation are Alaskans, who pay some of the highest health care costs in the country. In addition, many Alaskans - particularly in rural areas - struggle with basic health care access. This, combined with other factors, helps contribute to Alaska's exceptionally high rates of chronic and preventable disease.

Naturopaths specialize in preventive medicine and treatment of chronic disease. Rather than symptom and medication management, naturopathic doctors focus more on disease prevention, and on addressing the root causes of illness. In the long-run, this type of care saves money for consumers, insurers, and the state.

In our current lean fiscal environment, it is difficult to tackle our budget effectively without addressing one of the key cost drivers in Alaska: the rising cost of health care. By allowing Alaska naturopathic doctors to practice within the scope of their training and education, the clarity of HB 326 will hopefully attract more naturopaths to the state. Increasing competition and access will be good for the market, and Alaskans will have more options when choosing what style of health care is right for them.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 326 - Naturopaths; Licensing Sectional Analysis

Section 1 – AS 08.02.010(a) Professional Identification (amended section)

Requires naturopathic practitioners to use appropriate letters, title and specialist designations

Section 2 – AS 08.45.030 Issuance of Licenses (amended section)

- Establishes that, to be issued a license, an applicant must be of good moral character, have graduated from an accredited naturopathic college and have passed a licensing examination.
- Removes outdated language requiring that to be issued a license to practice naturopathy in Alaska, if an individual graduated before 1988, they must also have been issued a license to practice in another state previously.

Section 3 - AS 08.45.035(a) Temporary Licenses (amended section)

Allows the department to issue a temporary license to a naturopath if they are signed up to take licensing exams at the next available date after the date of the application and has not previously failed the licensing exam.

Section 4 – AS 08.45.045 Practice of Naturopathy (a new section)

- Allows naturopaths to practice within the scope of their education and training.
- Allows naturopaths to prescribe natural and therapeutic substances, natural therapies, contraceptive devices and drugs, excluding most controlled substances.
- Allows naturopaths to perform minor surgeries and perform or order diagnostic procedures
- Defines “naturopathic physical application”

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

- **Section 5 – AS 08.45.050 Restrictions on Practice of Naturopathy (amended section)**
- Removes prohibition for prescribing drugs and performing minor surgeries
- Prohibits naturopaths from giving, recommending or prescribing cancer drugs and controlled substances

Section 6 – AS 08.45.050 Controlled Substance Exceptions (new subsection)

Allows naturopaths to give, recommend or prescribe testosterone and zolpidem (Ambien)

Section 7 – AS 08.45 Public Health Duties and License Renewal (2 new sections)

- Imposes same public health duties on Naturopaths as other physicians (08.45.053)
- Requires naturopaths to complete 24 hours of continuing education every two years for license to be renewed (08.45.057)

Section 8 – AS 08.45.200(3) Naturopathy (repealed and reenacted)

Repeals and replaces definition for “naturopathy”

Section 9 – AS 08.45.200 \Naturopathic Medical School Approval (new paragraphs added)

Defines “approved naturopathic medical school” and “naturopath”

Section 10 - Transitional Language

Transitional language allowing currently licensed naturopaths to practice under the new law

Section 11 - Transitional Regulations

Allows the Department to adopt transitional regulations immediately following passage and prior to the bill’s effective date.

Section 12

Establishes immediate effective date for transitional regulations.

Section 13

Establishes effective date for other provisions in January

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 326
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB326-DCCED-CBPL-03-02-18
Title: NATUROPATHS: LICENSING; PRACTICE
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: (H) Labor and Commerce

Department: Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Appropriation: Corporations, Business and Professional
Licensing
Allocation: Corporations, Business and Professional
Licensing
OMB Component Number: 2360

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2019 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services	2.4						
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)	2.4						
Total	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)	2.4						
Total	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/19

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Janey McCullough, Director Phone: (907)465-2538
Division: Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing Date: 03/02/2018
Approved By: Catherine Reardon, Director Date: 03/02/18
Agency: Division of Administrative Services, DCCED

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 326

Analysis

HB 326 expands the naturopath scope of practice to allow prescriptive authority, limited controlled substance prescriptive authority, additional public health duties, and practice of medicine consistent with their education.

This legislation also adds a continuing education requirement to renewal of licensure and increases entry-to-practice standards for naturopath licensure.

If the bill passes the following expenses will be incurred:

Services: \$2.4 (costs to amend regulations including legal, printing and postage in the first year)

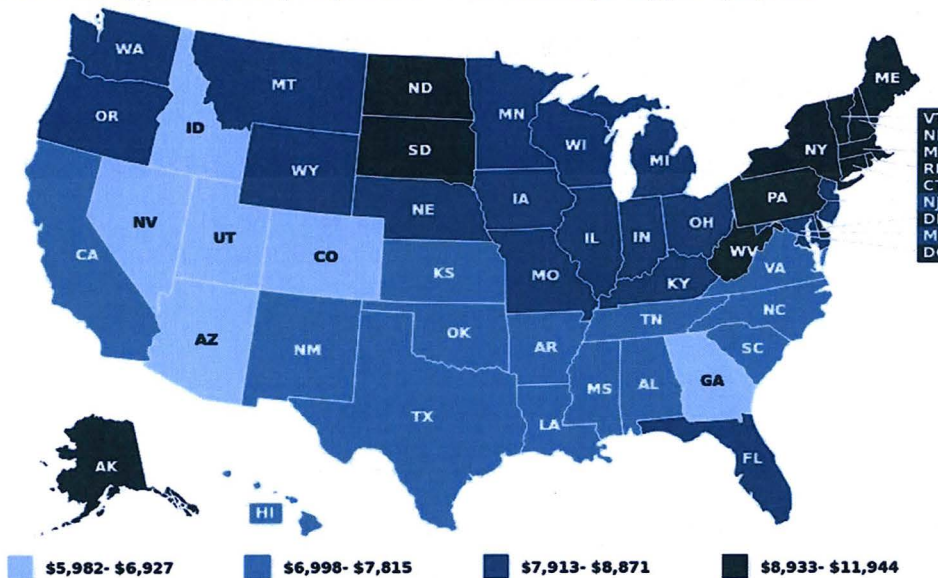
Professional licensing programs within the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing are funded by Receipt Supported Services, fund source 1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF). Licensing fees for each occupation are set per AS 08.01.065 so the total amount of revenue collected approximately equals the occupation's actual regulatory costs.

HB 326 Overview

— Naturopathic Doctor Legislation —

Alaskans pay some of the highest cost for healthcare in the country

Health Care Expenditures per Capita by State of Residence: Health Spending per Capita, 2014



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts.

- This is also a key driver of Alaska's budget growth (**What % of spending??**)
- Despite these high costs, rates of chronic and preventable diseases continue to climb

Restrictive Regulations Create a Significant Gap Between Naturopathic Training and Allowed Scope

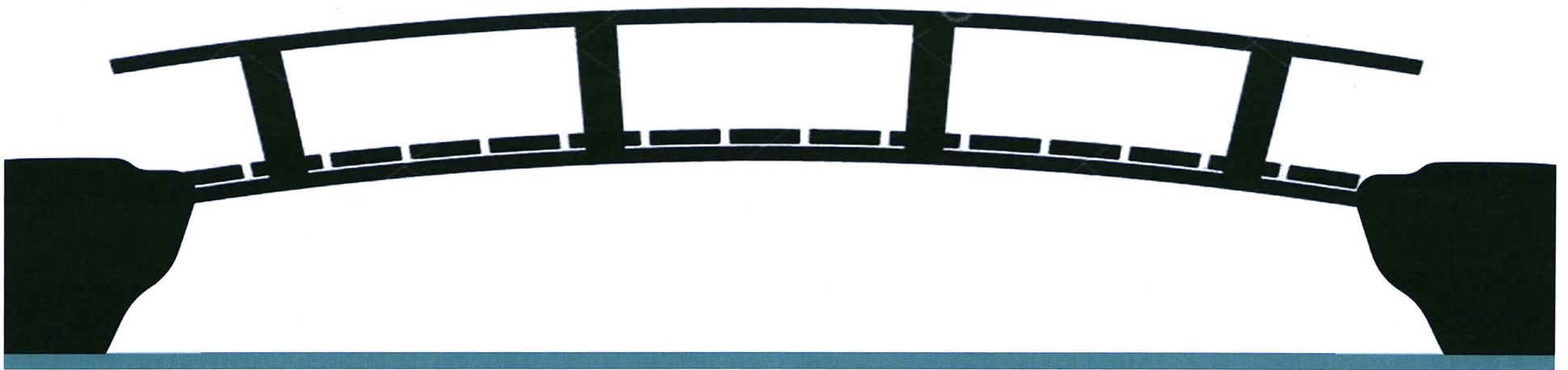


- Shortage of primary care remains in Alaska despite the presence of NDs trained to provide it
- NDs qualify for Indian Health Service's national loan repayment program aimed at increasing healthcare access in remote Alaska, but are unable to make use of this program due to the limited scope of practice.
- ***This decreases competition, drives up costs and limits access for healthcare consumers***



Solution: Allow Naturopaths to Practice What They are Educated to Do

- Immediately enables dozens of new primary care providers (~57)
- This scope is being practiced safely in many other states



What Are Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)?

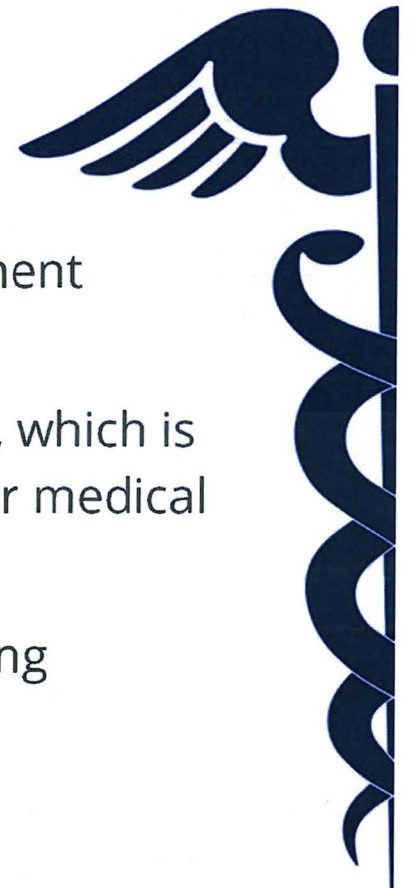


- Training to provide evidence-based primary care, with a patient-centered focus that **prioritizes disease prevention over symptom management and drug therapies**
- Emphasis on longer office visits (~60-90 min.)
- This approach tends to reduce need for healthcare utilization, as well as long-term costs

Education

4-Year Accredited Medical School Program

- 2 Years of basic sciences; 2 years clinical sciences and treatment methods
- Regulated by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education, which is overseen by the US Department of Education - same as other medical schools
- NDs must pass the two-part Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations (NPLEX), before being licensed to practice



ND Therapeutic Order Progresses From Minimal to Higher Levels of Intervention as Necessary

Minimal

- Clinical Nutrition / Diet
- Counseling / Behavior Change
- Hydrotherapy & Others
- Herbal Medicine
- Physical Manipulation
- Pharmaceuticals (*Not allowed in AK*)

Greater

- Minor Surgery (*Not allowed in AK*)



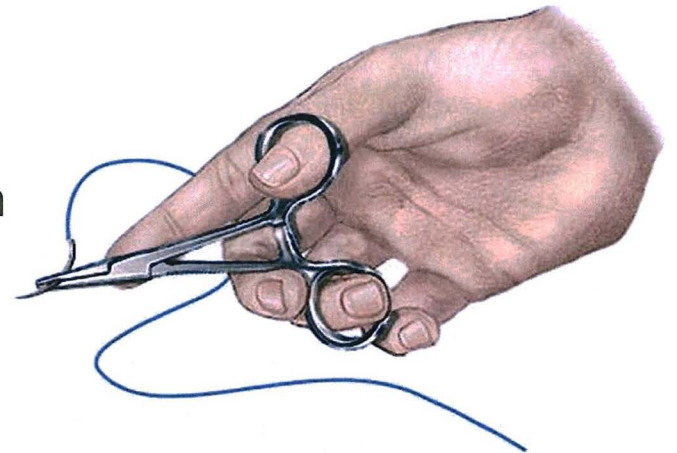
HB 326: Key Provisions

HB 326 defines a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors which reflects their education and training

- Cleans up outdated language
 - Allows NDs to perform minor office procedures (minor surgeries)
 - Allows issuance of vitamins, minerals and other *non-controlled* substance prescription medications
 - Requires 24 hours of continuing education every 2 years
-

Key Provision: “Minor Office Procedures”

- Allows repair of superficial lacerations & skin biopsies (e.g. stitches, wart removal, punch biopsies)
- Does NOT include any sort of major, internal or plastic surgery, or those involving the eyes, tendons, ligaments, nerves, or blood vessels
- NDs complete an avg. of 100 hour of training in this area
- Being practiced safely in many other states



HB 326 offers one clear, safe and tangible step towards better healthcare in Alaska



- Increases competition and drives down healthcare costs
 - Improves healthcare access
 - Provides clear guidance to state regulators
 - Allows healthcare professionals to do what they are educated to do
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Naturopathy and the Primary Care Practice

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Synopsis

Naturopathy is a distinct type of primary care medicine that blends age-old healing traditions with scientific advances and current research. It is guided by a unique set of principles that recognize the body's innate healing capacity, emphasize disease prevention, and encourage individual responsibility to obtain optimal health. Naturopathic treatment modalities include diet and clinical nutrition, behavioral change, hydrotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, physical medicine, pharmaceuticals, and minor surgery. Naturopathic physicians (NDs) are trained as primary care physicians in four-year, accredited doctoral-level naturopathic medical schools. Currently, there are 15 U.S. states, 2 U.S. territories, and a number of provinces in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand that recognize licensure for NDs.

Keywords

naturopathic; naturopathy; nutrition; botanical medicine; homeopathy; hydrotherapy

Naturopathic Medicine Overview

Naturopathy is a distinct type of primary care medicine that blends age-old healing traditions with scientific advances and current research. It is guided by a unique set of principles that recognize the body's innate healing capacity, emphasize disease prevention, and encourage individual responsibility to obtain optimal health (List 1). The naturopathic physician (ND) strives to thoroughly understand each patient's condition, and views symptoms as the body's means of communicating an underlying imbalance. Treatments address the patient's underlying condition, rather than individual presenting symptoms. Modalities utilized by NDs include diet and clinical nutrition, behavioral change, hydrotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, physical medicine, pharmaceuticals, and minor surgery^{1, 2}. Naturopathy can be traced back to the European "nature cure," practiced in the nineteenth-century, which was a system for treating disease with natural modalities such as water, fresh air, diet, and herbs. In the early twentieth-century, naturopathy developed in the U.S. and Canada, combining nature cure, homeopathy, spinal manipulation and other therapies (Timeline)³.

Naturopathic Approach to Health

In naturopathic theory, illness is viewed as a process of disturbance to health and subsequent recovery in the context of natural systems. Many things can disturb optimal health, such as

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poor nutrition, chronic stress, or toxic exposure. The goal of the ND is to restore health by identifying and minimizing these disturbances. In order to do this, the ND first recognizes the factors that determine health (Table 1). A determinant becomes a disturbance when it is compromised in some way.

In attempting to restore health, the ND follows a specific, yet adaptable, therapeutic order that begins with minimal interventions and proceeds to higher level interventions as necessary (List 2). The order begins with reestablishing the conditions of health, such as developing a more healthful dietary and lifestyle regime. Next, the body's natural healing mechanisms may be stimulated through techniques such as hydrotherapy, which can increase the circulation of blood and lymph. The third step is to support weakened or damaged systems with homeopathy, botanical medicines, or specific exercises, such as yoga. The fourth step is to correct structural integrity, which is typically done with physical medicine techniques including massage and naturopathic manipulation. The fifth step is to address pathology using specific natural substances, such as dietary supplements. The sixth step is to address pathology using pharmaceutical or synthetic substances. Surgical correction is reserved for the final therapeutic step⁴.

Current Practice

Education

NDs are trained in four-year, accredited doctoral-level naturopathic medical schools. Such schools have been experiencing significant increases in enrollment and graduating class sizes over the past 20 years, particularly since the year 2000⁵. There are currently seven naturopathic medical schools in the US and Canada that are either accredited or are in candidate status for accreditation (Table 2). The range of didactic instruction at these schools is between 2,580 to 3,270 hours, and clinical instruction is between 1,200 to 1,500 hours^{1, 61}.

Accredited naturopathic medical schools must attain both regional and programmatic accreditation. Regional accreditation is through one of the U.S. Department of Education-recognized regional associations of schools and colleges. Programmatic accreditation for all naturopathic medical schools in North America is through the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). All accredited naturopathic medical schools are supported by The Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC), which acts to promote the naturopathic profession by ensuring rigorous educational standards^{7, 8}.

Candidates for admission to naturopathic medical school are required to hold a baccalaureate degree, and to have completed all standard premedical undergraduate coursework prior to matriculation. The first 2 years of naturopathic medical education focuses on basic and diagnostic sciences including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, histology, pathology, embryology, neuroscience, immunology, pharmacology, physical and clinical diagnosis, and lab diagnosis. The final 2 years of naturopathic medical education focuses on clinical sciences and practicum. Coursework specific to naturopathic medicine is woven throughout the program, which includes naturopathic theory, diet and nutrient therapy, botanical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, massage, naturopathic manipulation, therapeutic exercise, counseling, and case management. Some NDs receive additional training in related disciplines, such as midwifery, Oriental herbal medicine, or acupuncture^{1, 7}. NDs may choose to specialize in certain populations, such as pediatrics, or certain modalities, such as homeopathy.

There are a limited number of 1- to 2-year postdoctoral CNME-certified naturopathic residency programs available. Currently, residency is not required for licensure, except in Utah. Programs are extremely competitive, with an average of 350-400 new ND graduates in the U.S per year and only 30-40 openings. Most of these programs are offered through accredited naturopathic

medical schools and affiliated clinics, although other opportunities are emerging. An Integrative Medicine Residency is available through several hospitals and clinics, which gives NDs the opportunity to collaborate with conventional medical practitioners. The naturopathic profession has a commitment to increase clinical training opportunities, including the availability of postdoctoral residencies. There is a common informal practice of mentorship in which a new graduate joins the practice of a senior ND⁹.

Licensing

The licensing of NDs is determined at the state or province level in countries that regulate the profession. Currently, Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Ontario, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Utah, Vermont, and Washington, the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as provinces in Australia and New Zealand, have licensing laws for NDs². Licensing efforts for NDs are led by state organizations, and many currently unlicensed states are in various stages of the process towards licensure. Proximity to an already licensed state a significant predictor of new licensure¹⁰. In order to be eligible for licensure, an ND must have graduated from an accredited naturopathic medical school, and have passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX). NPLEX follows the same standards as the National Board of Medical Examiners (for the USMLE), the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, and other healthcare professions.¹¹

Licensing laws for NDs increase public safety by ensuring consistency of education, professional standards, compliance with public health standards, appropriate regulation, and currency of continuing education. In states and territories that do not have ND licensing laws, there has been an emergence of unqualified practitioners who did not graduate from appropriately accredited naturopathic medical schools. Licensure in all areas will protect patients by ensuring that the providers they choose have an education in safe practice of naturopathic medicine⁷.

Scope of practice

NDs are trained as primary care physicians with an emphasis in natural medicine in ambulatory settings. Their scope of practice varies by state and territory, but generally consists of the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease by stimulation and support of the body's natural healing mechanisms. Standard diagnostic and preventive techniques utilized include physical examination, laboratory testing, and diagnostic imaging. NDs may employ additional laboratory tests and examination procedures for further evaluation of nutritional status, metabolic functioning, and toxicities. Treatment modalities utilized by NDs include diet and clinical nutrition, behavioral change, hydrotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, and physical medicine. Depending upon the state, NDs may also be licensed to perform minor office procedures and surgery, administer vaccinations, and prescribe many prescriptive drugs¹².

Insurance credentialing

An increasing number of insurance companies, unions, and state organizations are credentialing licensed NDs. NDs are not credentialed in the same manner that MDs and DOs are since the scope of practice of NDs is not uniform nationwide. The process is based upon each state's individual licensing laws and particulars of each company^{7, 12}. Excessive standardization to cater to credentialing needs may be unfavorable to both NDs and their patients, as individualized care is fundamental to the profession. If the widespread credentialing of NDs is undertaken, a balance between establishing tight practice regulations and allowing for individualized approaches may be necessary¹³.

NDs have been licensed in Washington State since 1919, and credentialed since 1996. An epidemiologic study found that 1.6% of 600,000 enrollees from 3 major insurance companies in Washington filed claims for naturopathic services in 2002¹⁴. This is compared to National Health Statistics Reports (NHSR) population-based use estimates of 0.2% for naturopathic services in 2002 and 0.3% in 2007. The increase in use from 2002 to 2007 was, in part, attributed to the increase in naturopathic licensure during that time¹⁵. Although not a direct comparison, these findings suggest that licensing and credentialing NDs, as in Washington, increases the usage of naturopathic services.

Naturopathic profession

At the beginning of 2006, there were 4,010 licensed NDs in the U.S and Canada. This represents a 91% increase from 2001¹⁶. Distance from naturopathic school and population density account for over 69% of the distribution of NDs, the same factors that predict the distribution of MDs¹⁷. NDs typically work in private practice, but are also employed by hospitals, clinics, community health centers, universities, and private industry^{1, 2}. For NDs in private practice in Washington State, an estimated 78.9% reported sharing their office with other providers. These included other NDs (65.2%), acupuncturists (40.4%), massage therapists (40.4%), chiropractors (18.0%), MDs (13.7%), PhDs (6.8%), counselors (6.2%), registered nurses (5.0%), midwives (4.4%), and nutritionists (4.4%)¹⁸.

Within the licensed states of Washington and Connecticut, 75% of all visits to NDs were for chronic conditions, 20% were for acute conditions, and 5% were for wellness/preventive purposes. The most common complaints of patients seeking naturopathic care were fatigue, headache, musculoskeletal problems, anxiety/depression, menopausal symptoms, bowel and abdominal problems, allergies, and rash. The most common pediatric visits in Washington were for health supervision (27.4% of visits), infection (20.6% of visits), and mental health conditions (12.7% of visits). The majority of patients seen were middle-aged Caucasian women. Children were seen in 10.2% to 12.8% of visits, and individuals over the age of 65 were seen in 7.8% to 9.7% of visits¹⁹⁻²¹.

Over 70% of ND visits in Washington and Connecticut included physical examination or ordering laboratory/diagnostic tests. The most common examinations were vitals (28 to 39% of visits), HEENT (15 to 18% of visits), and complete physical (9 to 13% of visits). The most frequent laboratory tests were complete blood panels and serum chemistries, which were ordered in 7 to 10% of visits. Other labs were ordered less frequently and included thyroid panels, lipid panels, allergy tests, stool analyses, urine analyses, vitamin/mineral tests, endocrine, allergy skin tests, and TB skin tests. Diagnostic imaging including x-ray and ultrasound was ordered in 1 to 2% of visits. The most common treatments used were botanical medicine (43 to 51% of visits), vitamins (41 to 43% of visits), minerals (35 to 39% of visits), therapeutic diet (26 to 36% of visits), homeopathy (19 to 29% of visits), and self-care education (17 to 23% of visits). Modalities used less frequently included allergy treatment, acupuncture, glandular therapies, manipulation, exercise therapy, hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, mechanotherapy, ultrasound, and mental health counseling. Four percent of all visits included a referral to an MD, and 1 to 2% included a referral to another type of practitioner. The average visit lasted 40 minutes¹⁹. In pediatric visits in Washington, NDs administered immunizations during 18.6% of health supervision visits for children under the age of 2, and during 27.3% of visits for children aged from 2 to 5 years¹⁸.

Naturopathic Modalities

Diet and Clinical Nutrition

“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food,” *Hippocrates*. Proper nutrition is the foundation of a naturopathic practice, and food is utilized for both health promotion and disease prevention. NDs recommend diets individualized to each patient, though typically this means a balanced whole-foods diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole-grains, legumes, wild-caught fish, lean animal proteins, whole dairy products. In order to maximize nutritional value and minimize environmental impact, foods are considered best in their natural state, obtained locally, and eaten seasonally. NDs recognize how difficult and complex dietary changes may be, and assist patients through these changes by providing very specific individualized recommendations, as well as educational materials and resources.

There is overwhelming evidence that unhealthy eating habits significantly increase the risks for morbidity and mortality. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined that poor diet and physical inactivity caused 15.2% of all deaths in the U.S. in the year 2000, and may soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of death²². It has been estimated that better nutrition could reduce the costs of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes by an estimated \$71 billion each year²³. Obesity is also at an unprecedented high in the U.S. In 2009, the CDC reported that 66% of American adults, 17% of children ages 12-19, and 19% of children ages 6-11 years are overweight or obese²⁴. The general dietary recommendations and follow-up strategies that NDs utilize with their patients could have a significant impact on both chronic disease and obesity. It has been well-established that diets high in fruits and vegetables are associated with decreased risk for chronic disease²⁵. In addition, fruits and vegetables are generally low in calories thereby supporting healthy weight management²⁶. NDs may also prescribe special diets such as the elimination diet, anti-inflammatory diet, and hypoallergenic diet. These diets have a long history of traditional use in naturopathic practice, but more research is needed in these areas to better determine clinical indications and efficacy. In one such study, the elimination diet was found to ameliorate clinical signs of inflammation in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and augment the beneficial effect of fish oil supplementation²⁷.

The ultimate goal of naturopathic medicine is to optimize wellness by encouraging a healthy diet and lifestyle, but the ND may prescribe nutritional supplements if a specific deficiency is found or for certain conditions²⁸. Studies have not only shown the benefits of nutritional supplementation in promoting health and preventing disease, but also the potential healthcare cost savings. One such study found the daily use of multivitamins containing folic acid and zinc by all women of childbearing age, and the daily use of vitamin E by those over the age of 50 could save nearly \$20 billion annually in hospital charges related to heart disease, birth defects and low weight premature births²⁹. There is much on-going research in the area of nutritional supplements at both conventional and naturopathic institutions³⁰.

Behavioral Change

NDs emphasize that in order to live healthfully, one must work at it daily. Support is offered by the ND in the form of basic counseling, lifestyle modification, hypnotherapy, meditation, biofeedback, and stress management. NDs may also lead group classes in lifestyle modifications and stress management, helping foster community and connectedness for patients and physicians as they share and gain knowledge together. This holistic approach to healing acknowledges the importance of treating patients in the totality of their mind, body, and spirit environment. For the ND, it is essential to spend quality time listening to the patient in order to gain an understanding of how they live and strengthen the physician-patient

relationship. There is overwhelming evidence that effective physician-patient communication is associated with improved patient health outcomes^{31 32}.

A review of mindfulness research concluded that cultivating an enhanced mindful approach to living is associated with decreases in emotional distress, increases in positive states of mind, and an improvement in quality of life. Mindfulness practice was also found to positively influence the brain, the autonomic nervous system, stress hormones, the immune system, and health behaviors, including eating, sleeping, and substance use³³. Additional information about mindfulness research is offered in another chapter of this volume.

Hydrotherapy

Hydrotherapy is the external or internal use of water in any of its forms (water, ice, steam) for health promotion or treatment of disease. It was used widely in ancient cultures, including Egypt, Persia, China, India, and Israel, before it was well established as the traditional European water cure³⁴. Many of the treatments can be applied at home, making them cost effective and participatory for the patient.

Numerous studies have examined potential immunomodulatory effects of hydrotherapy treatments with promising results. A study testing the immune effects of cold water therapy in cancer patients found statistically significant increases in white blood cell counts including neutrophils, lymphocytes, and monocytes, in subjects post-treatment compared with pre-treatment values³⁵. In another study, repeated cold water stimulations in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) reduced the frequency of infections, increased lymphocyte counts, modulated interleukin expression, and improved subjective well-being³⁶.

Numerous studies have also evaluated various hydrotherapy techniques for the treatment of specific conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, wound management, hemorrhoids, varicose veins, and chronic heart failure³⁷⁻⁴¹. Hydrotherapy was generally found to be beneficial and safe for these conditions, but broad conclusions are not warranted due to sample size limitations and inconsistent methodologies. A meta-analysis of hydrotherapy for the treatment of fibromyalgia syndrome found moderate evidence that hydrotherapy has short-term beneficial effects on pain and health-related quality of life (HRQOL)⁴². A recent Cochrane Review on nasal saline irrigations for chronic rhinosinusitis found evidence the nasal lavage relieves symptoms, helps as an adjunct to treatment, and is well tolerated by most patients. There were no significant side-effects reported⁴³. More research on hydrotherapy is indicated due to the promising preliminary findings in these areas.

Homeopathy

Homeopathy is a healing system that was created over 200 years ago by a German physician, Samuel Hahnemann. It is based on a central theory known as The Similia Principle. Substances made from plants, minerals or animals, which are known to cause symptoms similar to a certain disease, are given to patients in an extremely diluted form. Homeopathic remedies are believed to stimulate auto-regulatory and self-healing processes⁴⁴. Remedies are selected by matching a patient's symptoms, based on taking a finely-detailed history, with symptoms produced by the substances in healthy individuals. Homeopathy is extensively used worldwide by homeopaths, MDs, DOs, NDs and DVMs. Across Europe, approximately a quarter of the population uses homeopathy, and depending upon the country, from 20% to 85% of all general practitioners either use homeopathy in their practices or refer their patients to homeopaths⁴⁵.

There are over 200 clinical trials testing the efficacy of homeopathic treatments, many of which have led to positive results. However, an inconsistency in methods, limitations in sample sizes, as well as a lack of testing for single conditions, restricts pooling these results. A review

evaluated the effectiveness of homeopathy in the fields of immunoallergology and common inflammatory diseases. Collectively, the evidence demonstrates that in some conditions homeopathy shows significant promise, e.g. *Galphimia glauca* for the treatment of allergic oculorhinitis. Classical individualized homeopathy showed potential for the treatment of otitis, fibromyalgia, and possibly upper respiratory tract infections and allergic complaints. A general weakness of the evidence is scarcity of independent confirmation of reported trials and conflicting results. The authors concluded that, considering homeopathic medicines are safe, they are a possible treatment option for upper airway infections, otitis, allergic rhinitis, and asthma⁴⁶.

Several other clinical trials on homeopathic medicines show promise as well. One trial evaluated homeopathic medicines for minimizing the adverse effects of cancer treatments, and found preliminary data in support of the efficacy of topical calendula ointment in the prevention of radiotherapy-induced dermatitis, and Traumeel S mouthwash for chemotherapy-induced stomatitis. The medicines did not cause any serious adverse effect or interact with conventional treatment⁴⁷. A Norwegian multi-center outcomes study found that 7 out of 10 patients visiting a homeopath reported a meaningful improvement in their main complaint 6 months after the initial consultation⁴⁸. Given these positive findings, as well as the rich history and wide-spread use of homeopathy, further research in this area is indicated.

Botanical Medicine

Traditional medicine has been used in communities for thousands of years. According to the World Health Organization, herbal treatments are the most popular form of traditional medicine⁴⁹. In developing countries, 80% of the population depends exclusively on medicinal plants for primary healthcare⁵⁰. NDs use herbal preparations in the form of teas, tinctures, poultices, balms, baths, elixirs, compresses, oils, syrups, suppositories, and capsules. The ND prescribes and prepares herbal remedies based on the uniqueness of each patient and their presenting symptoms. Organic and wild harvested herbs are used if available. A growing body of research supports the efficacy and safety of various herbs for preventing and treating many health conditions⁷.

A Cochrane review of herbal medicine for low-back pain found strong evidence that *Harpagophytum procumbens* (devil's claw) reduced pain better than placebo, and moderate evidence that *Salix alba* (white willow bark) and *Capsicum frutescens* (cayenne) reduced pain better than placebo in short-term trials. The authors also reported that the quality of reporting in these trials was generally poor, and that additional trials testing these herbal medicines against standard treatments are needed, particularly for long-term use⁵¹. In another Cochrane review, *Crataegus laevigata* (hawthorn leaf, flower and fruit) extract was found to provide a significant benefit in symptom control and physiologic outcomes as an adjunctive treatment for chronic heart failure. All 14 trials included in the review were double-blind, placebo controlled, RCTs⁵². A Cochrane review of *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's wort) for the treatment of depression concluded that *Hypericum perforatum* extracts, a) are superior to placebo in patients with major depression; b) are similarly effective as standard antidepressants; and c) have fewer side effects than standard antidepressants. All studies included were double-blind, RCTs. However, the association of country of origin and precision with effects sizes complicated the interpretation⁵³. The use of dietary supplements and primary care is explored further in another chapter of this volume.

Naturopathic Physical Medicine

Since the founding of naturopathy in the early twentieth century, physical medicine modalities have been an integral component of naturopathic treatments. Naturopathic physical medicine is the therapeutic use of physiotherapy, therapeutic exercise, massage, energy work,

naturopathic manipulation, and hydrotherapy. It is distinct from the practice of chiropractic, physical therapy and physical rehabilitation⁷. Although it encompasses a broad range of treatment modalities, most are used for musculoskeletal conditions, such as injury and pain.

Research on naturopathic physical modalities is limited and results are inconsistent. A systematic review of low-intensity pulsed ultrasonography for the healing of fractures concluded that, although overall results are promising, the evidence is moderate to low in quality and provides conflicting results. The authors recommend large, blinded trials, directly addressing patient important outcomes, such as return to function⁵⁴. A Cochrane review of therapeutic ultrasound for treating patellofemoral pain syndrome determined that no conclusion could be made due to poor reporting of the therapeutic application of the ultrasound and low methodological quality of the trials included⁵⁵. A Cochrane review of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) for chronic pain produced similarly questionable results. The authors reported that published literature on the subject lacks the methodological rigor needed to make confident assessments of the role of TENS in chronic pain management, and that large multi-centre RCTs of TENS are needed⁵⁶.

Naturopathic Research

Much complementary and alternative (CAM) research to-date has focused on single modalities, specific supplements, and particular constituents of herbs. This type of research is taken out of context of the larger CAM medical system in which it is actually used⁵⁷. The optimal research model used for evaluating naturopathic interventions must allow for individualized, multifaceted treatment strategies and potentially synergistic effects⁵⁸. Whole systems research (WSR) is an emerging research paradigm, which may provide a better assessment of CAM therapies than classic RCTs, which attempt to determine the single best treatment for all patients. The goal of WSR is to evaluate treatments, products, specific modalities, and techniques within the context of the unique medical system in which they are used. Fundamental to WSR is developing appropriate study designs and analysis strategies for whole systems of medicine, recognizing the individuality of treatments and the participatory role of patients, emphasizing the healthcare environment and physician-patient interactions, including outcome measures based on patient-held values and individualized endpoints, and further developing a common understanding of the CAM models being studied. WSR is non-hierarchical, cyclical, adaptive, and holds qualitative and quantitative methods in equal esteem^{57, 58}.

The Naturopathic Medical Research Agenda was an NCCAM-funded project spanning from 2002 to 2004, which developed recommendations for the direction and emphasis of naturopathic research through 2010. Participants included over 1200 individuals, representing a range of scientific and clinical backgrounds from leading naturopathic faculty to conventional physician scientists. Two priority populations were identified during these sessions, type 2 diabetes and elderly life-stage. For both of these populations, the goal is to compare naturopathic medical care to conventional care in large controlled trials. Specific approaches to naturopathic research were also identified, which include; 1) design and implement whole-practice research protocols focusing on naturopathic medicine as a primary care practice for both prioritized populations, 2) continue to research components of naturopathic medicine to include single agents for a specified diagnosis and mechanism of action studies, and 3) perform contextual research through observational studies, which study aspects of the practice of naturopathic medicine such as the patient-practitioner interaction and its integration with the larger medical system⁵⁹. Participating naturopathic medical schools are in the process of performing this research, and are in various stages of completion^{1, 60, 61}.

There are a number of other current research projects, both federally and privately funded, at naturopathic medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) are substantial funding agencies for these projects. Examples of current research include a matched controlled outcomes study comparing integrated care to conventional care for the treatment of cancer (Bastyr University and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center), a pilot study evaluating the effects of magnet therapy for carpal tunnel syndrome (National College of Naturopathic Medicine), and a pragmatic randomized clinical trial of naturopathic medicine's ability to treat and prevent cardiovascular disease (Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine)^{1, 60, 61}.

Integrative Patient Care

Goals of naturopathic medicine parallel those of family medicine in providing for and maintaining the well-being of both the patient and the healthcare system as a whole. Collaboration between conventional and naturopathic communities is growing as state licensing and insurance credentialing expands, and as the general public becomes more knowledgeable about CAM therapies^{62, 63}. Patients are increasingly seeking out NDs for many reasons, including wanting a holistic approach that addresses the root of the problem, wanting more time and attention, having not been helped by conventional care, and having had a previous positive experience with an ND⁶⁴. The conditions patients see licensed NDs for are many of the same conditions that they see conventional physicians for²⁰. For those who choose integrative medicine, co-management of care and referral mechanisms will ensure optimally safe and effective patient care for several reasons. NDs are trained in potential drug/herb interactions and can provide educational support to patients and physicians. Naturopathic care may also reduce the need for some prescriptive drugs, and collaboration between the prescribing physician and the ND will be critical in determining medication dosing. NDs can also offer nutritional support around surgery and other procedures in order to reduce recovery time and potential complications. NDs are well-trained in identifying potentially life-threatening situations and medical conditions out of their scope of practice. Collaborative referral systems would provide continuity of care, comprehensive treatment, and optimal long-term patient management.

There are a number of integrative clinics nationwide that employ both NDs and MDs, and at least 20 hospitals that staff NDs. One such integrative clinic is Cedarburg Women's Health Center, located in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The clinic was established by Janice Alexander, M.D. to provide primary care with prevention at the forefront. Michele Nickels, N.D. offers patients an integrative approach to health. The collaboration has been beneficial to both patients and physicians. Patients have seen that both types of medicine are needed for optimal health, and that each philosophy of medicine needs to be practiced by specialists. Dr. Alexander has experienced how knowledgeable NDs are regarding primary care, and has seen substantial results from naturopathic treatments in her patients. Dr. Nickels respects the expertise of Dr. Alexander, significantly benefiting from her mentorship, and discussion of patient cases has been mutually beneficial. Their patients agree that this type of medical care is at the forefront of primary care medicine.

Dr. Nickels also runs a private practice, Integrative Family Wellness Center, located in Brookfield, Wisconsin. The clinic offers conventional family medicine, as well as naturopathic medicine, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and manual therapy. Because of their holistic approach to healthcare and the additional time and attention provided to patients, the clinic has doubled in size in one year. Dr. Nickels emphasizes that patients want this type of primary care, and envisions healthcare moving in this direction as people become more educated and demand having a choice of treatment options (permission from Michele Nickels July 2009).

Another integrative clinic, located in Lokahi, Hawaii, is a partnership between Lokahi Health Center, the private practice Michael Traub, ND, and Pacifica Integrative Skin Wellness Institute, the dermatologic private practice of Monica Scheel, MD. There is much mutual referral between the two businesses. Dr. Traub's patients have access to the expertise of a board-certified dermatologist, and Dr. Scheel's patients have access to NDs who can address concerns that go beyond their dermatological conditions (permission from Michael Traub July 2009).

Resources

For more information, patients and physicians can go to the AANP at <http://www.naturopathic.org/>, the national association for licensed NDs. Additional local resources may be obtained from state naturopathic associations. The websites of accredited naturopathic medical schools (Table 2) provide information specific to naturopathic education. There are also a number of texts that offer information on the practice of naturopathic medicine and its related modalities (List 3).

Key Points

- Naturopathic physicians (NDs) are trained as primary care physicians in 4-year accredited, doctoral-level naturopathic medical schools.
- Currently, there are 15 U.S. states, 2 U.S. territories, and a number of provinces in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand that recognize licensure for NDs.
- NDs are specialists in natural medicine and are trained in potential drug-herb interactions.
- Treatment modalities utilized by NDs include diet and clinical nutrition, behavioral change, hydrotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, physical medicine, pharmaceuticals, and minor surgery.
- NDs work in private practice, hospitals, clinics, community health centers, universities, and private industry.
- NDs often collaborate with conventional physicians in the co-management and mutual referral of patients.
- An increasing number of insurance companies, unions, and state organizations are credentialing licensed NDs.

Key Clinical Recommendation	Strength of Recommendation	Reference(s)
The elimination diet improves clinical signs of inflammation in RA, and augments the beneficial effect of fish oil supplementation.	B	27
Daily use of multivitamins containing folic acid and zinc by women of childbearing age, and the daily use of vitamin E by those over the age of 50 reduces heart disease, birth defects and low weight premature births.	A	29
A "mindful" approach to living is associated with decreases in emotional distress, increases in positive states of mind, and an improvement in quality of life.	A	33
Cold water therapy increases white blood cell counts in cancer patients.	B	35
Cold water stimulations reduce frequency of infection, increase lymphocyte counts, modulate interleukin expression, and improve subjective well-being in COPD.	B	36

Key Clinical Recommendation	Strength of Recommendation	Reference(s)
Hydrotherapy has short-term beneficial effects on pain and HRQOL in fibromyalgia syndrome.	A	42
Nasal irrigation for chronic rhinosinusitis relieves symptoms and augments standard treatment.	A	43
Classical individualized homeopathy shows potential for the treatment of otitis, fibromyalgia, and possibly upper respiratory tract infections and allergic complaints.	B	46
Topical calendula ointment minimizes the adverse effects of radiotherapy-induced dermatitis, and Traumeel S mouthwash minimizes the adverse effects of chemotherapy-induced stomatitis.	B	47
<i>Harpagophytum procumbens</i> (devil's claw), <i>Salix alba</i> (white willow bark) and <i>Capsicum frutescens</i> (cayenne) reduces low-back pain better than placebo.	B	51
<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> (hawthorn leaf, flower and fruit) extract provides benefit in symptom control and physiologic outcomes as an adjunctive treatment for chronic heart failure.	A	52
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> (St. John's wort) extracts are superior to placebo and similar to antidepressants for major depression with fewer side effects.	A	53
Low-intensity pulsed ultrasonography may benefit the healing of fractures.	B	54
Therapeutic ultrasound may benefit patellofemoral pain syndrome.	C	55
TENS may aid in chronic pain management.	C	56
Collaboration between NDs and MDs has potential benefit for patients	C	62, 63, practice of Nickels M 2009, practice of Traub M 2009

List 1: Principles of Naturopathic Medicine

- The Healing Power of Nature (*Vis Medicatrix Naturae*) – Naturopathic medicine recognizes the body's natural healing ability, and trusts that the body has the innate wisdom and intelligence to heal itself if given the proper guidance and tools.
- Identify and Treat the Causes (*Tolle Causam*) – NDs attempt to identify and treat the underlying cause of illness, rather than focusing on individual presenting symptoms.
- First Do No Harm (*Primum Non Nocere*) – NDs begin with minimal interventions and proceed to higher level interventions only as determined necessary.
- Doctor as Teacher (*Docere*) – NDs educate patients, involve them in the healing process, and emphasize the importance of the doctor-patient relationship.
- Treat the Whole Person – Naturopathic medicine takes into account all aspects of an individual's health including physical, mental, emotional, genetic, environmental, social, and spiritual factors.
- Prevention – Naturopathic medicine emphasizes optimal wellness and the prevention of disease.

Timeline of Pioneers in Naturopathic Medicine

Vincent Priessnitz 1798-1852	Founder of "nature cure," and well-known for his hydrotherapeutic institution in Grafenberg, Germany.
Sebastian Kneipp 1824-1897	Known worldwide for his successful nature cure techniques, which integrated hydrotherapeutic treatments with herbs.
Ernst Schweningen 1850-1924	Established the first nature cure hospital in Grosslichterfelde, Germany.
Heinrich Lahmann 1860-1905	The first nature doctor who graduated from medical school. Dr. Lahmann founded a hydrotherapy sanatorium, which incorporated raw vegetarian diets.
Henry Lindlahr 1862-1924	Naturopath who established a successful sanitarium for nature cure and osteopathy in Chicago, Illinois. Among other scientific contributions, Dr. Lindlahr wrote <i>Nature Cure</i> , which at its time was considered "the best work ever published in Nature Cure Literature."
Franz Schonenberger 1865-1933	The first university professor who introduced nature cure methods into the Priessnitz Hospital in Berlin, Germany.
Louisa Lust 1868-1925	Known as the "Matriarch of Naturopathy," as she was a successful naturopath specializing in the treatment of women.
Benedict Lust 1872-1945	Known as the "Father of Naturopathy" for his combination of nature cure with homeopathy, massage, spinal manipulation and therapeutic electricity.
Otis G. Carroll 1879-1962	Dr. of chiropractic medicine who invented constitutional hydrotherapy and developed the first means for discerning food sensitivities.
Alfred Brauchle 1898-1964	Conducted "The Great Nature Cure Experiment" in the Johannstadter Hospital in Dresden, Germany. This was the first collaboration between natural and orthodox medical providers.
John Bastyr 1912-1995	Dr. of chiropractic and naturopathic medicine who is known as the "Father of Modern Naturopathic Medicine." Dr. Bastyr founded Bastyr University, located in Seattle, WA.

Data from (Kirchfeld F, Boyle W: *Eclectic Therapies. In Nature Doctors: Pioneers in Naturopathic Medicine. Portland, OR, Medicina Biologica, 1994*)

List 2: Naturopathic Therapeutic Order

- 1 Establish the conditions for health
 - Identify and remove disturbing factors
 - Institute a more healthful regimen
- 2 Stimulate the healing power of nature (*vis medicatrix naturae*): the self-healing processes
- 3 Address weakened or damaged systems or organs

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- Strengthen the immune system
 - Decrease toxicity
 - Normalize inflammatory function
 - Optimize metabolic function
 - Balance regulatory systems
 - Enhance regeneration
 - Harmonize life force
- 4 Correct structural integrity
 - 5 Address pathology: Use specific natural substances, modalities, or interventions
 - 6 Address pathology: Use specific pharmacologic or synthetic substances
 - 7 Suppress or surgically remove pathology

From Zeff J., Snider P, Pizzorno JE. Section I: Philosophy of Natural Medicine. The Textbook of Natural Medicine 3rd ed. 2006;1(1), with permission.

List 3: Suggested Reading

1. Textbook of Naturopathic Medicine (2-volume set) Third Edition, Joseph E. Pizzorno Jr. N.D., Michael T. Murray N.D.
2. Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database, Jeff M. Jellin, Pharm.D.
3. Woman's Encyclopedia of Natural Medicine, Tori Hudson, N.D.
4. An Encyclopedia of Natural Healing for Children and Infants, Mary Bove, N.D.
5. Plant Medicine in Practice: Using the Teachings of John Bastyr, Elsevier Science 2003, William Mitchell, N.D.
6. Herbal Medicine from the Heart of the Earth, Sharol Tilgner, N.D.
7. Feeding the Whole Family, Cynthia Lair.
8. Anti-Inflammation Diet and Recipe Book, Jessica Black, N.D.

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Table 1

Determinants of Health	
Inborn	Genetic Makeup (genotype) Intrauterine/Congenital Maternal Exposures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drugs – Toxins – Viruses – Psychoemotional Maternal Nutrition Maternal Lifestyle Constitution- determines susceptibility
Hygienic Factors/Lifestyle Factors – How We Live	Environment, Lifestyle, Psychoemotional, and Spiritual Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spiritual life – Self-assessment – Relationship to larger universe Exposure to Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fresh air – Clean water – Light Diet, Nutrition, and Digestion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unadulterated food – Toxemia Rest and Exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rest – Exercise Socio-economic Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Culture – Loving and being loved – Meaningful work – Community Stress (Physical, Emotional) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trauma (physical/emotional) – Illnesses: pathobiography – Medical interventions (or lack of) – Surgeries – Suppressions – Physical and emotional exposures, stresses, and trauma – Toxic and harmful substances – Addictions

From Zeff J., Snider P, Pizzorno JE. Section I: Philosophy of Natural Medicine. The Textbook of Natural Medicine 3rd ed. 2006;1(1), with permission

Table 2

Accredited Naturopathic Medical Schools in the U.S and Canada	
School	Contact
Bastyr University	14500 Juanita Drive NE Kenmore, WA 98028 http://www.bastyr.edu/
Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine	300-435 Columbia Street New Westminster, BC V3L 5N8 Canada http://www.binm.org/
Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine	1255 Sheppard Avenue East Toronto, Ontario M2K 1E2 Canada http://www.ccnm.edu/
National College of Natural Medicine	049 SW Porter Street Portland, OR 97201 http://www.ncnm.edu/
National University of Health Sciences	200 E. Roosevelt Road Lombard, Illinois 60148 http://www.nuhs.edu/
Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine	2140 E. Broadway Road Tempe, AZ 85282 http://www.scnm.edu/
University of Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604 https://www.bridgeport.edu/

ND Prescriptive Authority Comparison

Licensed States	Prescriptive Authority ¹	Controlled Substances ²
Alaska	No	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes
California	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	No
DC	Pending ³	No
Hawaii	Yes	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes
Maine	Yes	No
Maryland	Pending ³	No
Minnesota	Pending ³	No
Montana	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes
Oregon	Yes	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes
Vermont	Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes	Yes

¹ States that both license NDs and give prescriptive authority

² States that license NDs and give both standard prescriptive authority as well as some controlled substances authority with the exception of schedule 1 and 2

³ States currently undergoing formulary process or scope redefinition

Prepared by the Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians (2/06/18)

Educational & Scope Comparison for Primary Care Providers in Alaska

	Naturopathic Doctor (ND) Bastyr ¹	Medical Doctor (MD) UW ²	Nurse Practitioner (NP) UAA ³	Physicians Assistant (PA) UW/UAA ⁴
Degree	Doctorate (4 yrs.)	Doctorate (4 yrs.)	Masters (2 yrs.)	Bachelor's or Masters
Educational requirements	Bachelor's degree (4 yrs.)	Bachelor's degree (4 yrs.)	Bachelor's in Nursing	2 yrs. sciences, 1 yr. clinical experience
Admissions Testing	None	MCAT	None	None or GRE
School Accreditation body	CNME	LCME	CCNE or ACEN	ARC-PA
Training Hours				
Clerkship (Clinical)	1210 hours	3120-3900 hours ⁵	720 hours	1200-1600 hours
Classroom	249.5 credits	163 credits	32-50 credits	65 credits (Bachelors) 86 credits (Masters)
Nutrition and Naturopathic	Included in systems-based classes	Elective	0	0
Pharmacological	Included in systems-based classes	Included in systems-based classes	3 credits	Included in systems-based classes
Licensing Examination	NLPEX Board Exam	USMLE Board Exam	ANCC or AANP	PANCE
Residency Requirements	Optional 1-3 yrs.	Required 3 yrs.	None	None
Prescriptive Authority in AK	None	Full	Full, no supervision	Full, with MD supervision

¹ Bastyr ND Curriculum 2017-2018, clinical training | <http://bastyr.edu/academics/areas-study/study-naturopathic-medicine/naturopathic-doctor-degree-program#Clinical-Training> Accessed 2/18/17

² UW MD Program Curriculum | <http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/current-students/curriculum>. Accessed 2/6/17

³ UAA School of Nursing Handbook

⁴ UW MedEx Program Curriculum | <https://depts.washington.edu/medex/pa-program/curriculum/>. Accessed 2/6/17. Verified via email with UW employee Keren Wick

⁵ Hours are estimates; actual hours will vary based on electives, specialty and site. Average day is 8-10 hrs. 78 weeks are required; 42 wks in year 3 and 36 wks in year 4. Estimate provided by Christen White, clinical curriculum at U.W. School of Medicine. | <http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/current-students/curriculum> | <http://blogs.uw.edu/medevalu/e15-graduation-requirements/>

Prepared by the Alaska Association of Naturopathic Physicians, (2/06/18)

Clinical, Diagnostic and Basic Science

The Treatment Toolbox

ology Training by System

Environ

Philosophy Psychology

refinement

NMD - NCNM	
Course Name	Credits
Biochemistry & Practicum I, II	7.5
Organ Systems A & P I-III	2.2
Medical Histology	1
Musculoskeletal Anatomy & Lab I, II	6
Pathology I - IV	14
Clinical/Physical Diagnosis & Lab I - III	18
Lab Diagnosis & Lab I-III	7.5
Diagnostic Imaging I-III & practicum	8
Intro to Clinic	0.5
Pharmacology I, II	6
Emergency Medicine & First Aid	2
Minor Surgery I & 2 with Labs	5
Nutrition I - IV	12
Botanical Materia Medica I-III	8
Clinic Medicinary Practicum & Lab Post	1.5
IV Therapy w/Lab*	1.75
Naturopathic Manip/Orthopedics I-V	7.5
Orthopedics and lab	3
Palpation I-II lab	2
Physiotherapy and lab	3
Biomechanics/Intro Orthopedics	2
Hydrotherapy and lab	2
Classical Chinese Medicine	3
Homeopathy o-IV	12
Pediatrics	3
Gynecology & Lab	4
Natural Childbirth	3
Geriatrics	1
Gastroenterology	2
Proctology	1
Urology	2
Eye,Ears,Nose,Throat	2
Endocrinology	2
Cardio-Pulmonary	3
Neurology	2
Dermatology	2
Oncology	2
Medical Genetics	2
Immunology	3
Microbiology/Public Health I, II	6
Environmental Medicine	2
Naturopathic Philosophy series	7
Cultivation of the Practitioner I,II	3.25
Interviewing Techniques I, II	4
Psychological Diagnosis	2
Special topics selectives	13
Basic Science Clinical Correlate I - III	3
Clinical Case Presentation I-III	3
Clinic Synthesis I-III	2.5

MD - UW	
Course Name	Credits
Biochemistry	8
Cell Physiology	5
Microscopic Anatomy	6
Anatomy and Embryology	13
Musculoskeletal Anatomy	4
Pathology	10
Intro to Clinical Medicine I-VI	24
Hematology	3
Principles of Pharmacology I, II	8
Reproduction	4
Gastrointestinal system	4
Urinary System	4
Hormones and Nutrients	4
Cardiovascular System	8
Respiratory System	4
Nervous System	8
Skin system	2
Genetics	2
Intro to Immunology	2
Microbiology & Infectious Disease	9
Medicine, Health and Society	3
Systems of Human Behavior I, II	5
Brain and Behavior	3
Problem Based Learning	3

DO - Midwestern University	
Course Name	Credits
Biochemistry	11
Physiology I, II	10
Histology	4
Gross Anatomy/Embryology	13
Pathology	15
Introduction to Clinical Medicine	6
Topics in Medicine	18.2
Pharmacology	10
Osteopathic Manip Lab	9
Osteopathic Manip Lecture	6
Neuroscience	8
Immunology	3
Infectious Disease	10
Patients, Physicians and Society	1
Healthcare Communication I	1
Psychiatry	4

PA - OHSU	
Course Name	Credits
Human Physiology	6
Anatomy and embryology	8
Intro to pathophysiology	2
Clinical Medicine & Lab I-III	18
Physical Diagnosis	4
Applied Clinical Skills	2
Electrocardiography	1
Intro to Pharm & Pain Mgmt	4
Neuroanatomy	2
Intro to Medical Genetics	1
Medical Spanish	1
Clinical Med Tutorials I-III	9

FNP - OHSU	
Course Name	Credits
Adv Physiology and Path I, II	6
Health Assessment and Phys Diag	4
Family Primary Care Mgmt I-IV	15
Principles of Pharm, Adv. Pharm	5
Procedures for Emergent Care	3
Reproductive Health	4
Ante/post partum Management	3
Health Promotion	3
Concepts of Care in ANP	3
Context and Systems of Care	3

Skills F

Business and ethics

Patient Contact

Evidence Informed Practice	2	Medical Info for Decision Making	1					Evaluating Evidence for APN	3
		Clinical Epidemiology and EBM	2						
Medical Ethics	1	Cases in Clinical Ethics	1	Healthcare Issues	1	Medical Errors	1		
Jurisprudence	1			Practice of Medicine	4.5	Principles of Prof Practice I,II	6	Applied health care economics	2
Business Management Series	4					Health Care Systems	2	Health Systems, Organization	3
								Practice Evaluation	3
Clinic Community Education	1					Community Outreach	4		
Rotations	Credits	Rotations	Credits	Rotations	Credits	Rotations	Credits	Rotations	Credits
Clinical Primary Rotations	26	Internal Medicine (12 wks)	24	Internal Medicine I	12	Primary Care Preceptorship	14	Practicum in Primary Care Mgmt I - IV	19
Clinical Secondary Rotations	12	Pediatrics (6 wks)	12	Family Med /Community Health	18	Community Medicine	7		
Primary Care Preceptorships	10	Obstetrics and Gyn (6 wks)	12	Obstetrics and Gynecology	9	Pediatrics	7		
Clinic Grand Rounds	6	Psychiatry and Behavior (6 wks)	12	Pediatrics	9	Women's Health	7		
Hydro/Physmed Rotation	2	Family Medicine (6 wks)	12	Psychiatry	6	Inpatient Medicine	7		
Hydro Integration	1	Surgery (6 wks)	12	Surgery I	12	Emergency Medicine	7		
Clinic Lab Practicum	1.5	Rehab/Chronic Care (4 wks)	8	Elective I	6	General Surgery	7		
		Trauma and Emergency (4 wks)	8	Elective II-VI*	30	2 Specialist Electives	14		
		Neurology (4 wks)	8	Emergency Medicine	6				
		Surgery Selectives (4 wks)	8	Integrated Clinical Activity (ICA)	3				
		Clinical Electives (16 wks)	32	Osteopathic Manip Medicine	6				
				Family Medicine	6				
				Internal Medicine II	12				
				Surgery II	6				
First Year	69.25	Basic Sciences Yr 1 & 2	149	First Year	64.5	Didactic credits	71	Didactic credits	60
Second Year	77.5	Misc	14	Second Year	72.2	Clinic credits	70	Clinic credits	19
Third Year	75.25	Clinical Yr 3 & 4	14.8	Third Year	72				
Fourth Year	67			Fourth Year	69				
Total	289	Total Credits	311	Total credits	277.7	Total credits	141	Total credits	79
	2013		2013		2013		2013		2013

March 9, 2018

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 326 - Response to ASMA Opposition Letter re Practice of Naturopathy

Dear Committee Members,

The Alaska Association of Naturopaths ("AANP") submits this letter in response to the letter submitted by the Alaska State Medical Association ("ASMA") dated February 14, 2018 regarding HB 326 (the "Opposition Letter"). The AANP would like to address the ASMA's arguments against HB 326, defining the scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska.

The fundamental argument put forth by the ASMA in the Opposition Letter is that the scope of practice for naturopaths should not be defined to include prescriptive privileges, unless naturopaths receive the exact same education and training as MDs and DOs. By this same reasoning, the ASMA would not support prescriptive privileges for other healthcare providers such as Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, Optometrists, and Dentists - all of which currently have prescriptive privileges in Alaska - because they do not receive the same education and training as MDs and DOs. The relevant question is not whether Naturopaths receive the exact same education and training as medical doctors. **The appropriate question is whether the education and training of naturopaths is sufficient for the scope of practice defined in HB 326.**

To this point we would reiterate that:

- An equivalent or broader scope of practice has been practiced safely by naturopaths in numerous other states for many years.
- Prescriptive privileges are currently provided to other healthcare providers in Alaska with equal or lesser pharmacology training.

In addition, the Opposition Letter presents a number of other specific problematic points which we have addressed below.

NDs are not seeking the same scope of practice as MD and DO primary care physicians:

The ASMA misinterprets the implications of HB 326. While HB 326 defines a clear scope of practice for NDs, it will not grant NDs the same scope of practice as MD and DO primary care physicians. For example, HB 326 would only allow naturopaths to prescribe non-controlled substances, excluding Ambien and Testosterone.

All Naturopathic doctors practicing in Alaska have graduated from an accredited US or Canadian school. Much of the Opposition Letter focuses on a study comparing international and domestic medical schools, and then tries to apply the findings in that study to the education and training of Naturopaths. The quality of education received by MDs and DOs at international medical schools is completely irrelevant to HB 326. According to the ASMA letter there are about 1,800 international medical schools, however all naturopathic medical schools are located in the United States and Canada.

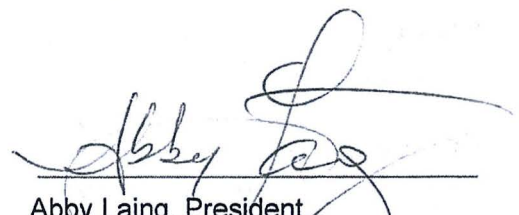
Residency programs are not required for receiving prescriptive privileges. Many Naturopaths now participate in optional one-year residency programs. However, a 3-year residency program is not required for other providers in Alaska, like Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants, to have prescriptive privileges.

Vaccines. Naturopaths in Alaska are not currently authorized to administer vaccines. If a child is due for a vaccine a Naturopath can only recommend that the parents follow up with a vaccine clinic or with another physician. Therefore, it is inappropriate to attribute Alaska's vaccine rates to Naturopaths. The standard of practice for Naturopaths is to educate parents about the CDC's recommended vaccination schedule.

Malpractice Cases. The ASMA's concerns regarding medical malpractice are unfounded. Malpractice claims and disciplinary actions against naturopaths are extremely rare, both within Alaska and nationwide. According to the National Practitioner Data Bank compilation report from 1990-2010, during that time period 254,380 medical practice claims were brought against MDs, while only 16 were brought against Naturopaths.

HB 326 will define the scope of practice for Naturopaths in Alaska in a manner that is consistent with their level of education and training. By doing so, it will provide Alaskans with greater access to primary health care providers, increase the freedom that Alaskans have to choose their preferred type of healthcare and will help reduce the cost of healthcare in Alaska. It will achieve these goals while still ensuring patient safety, as has been demonstrated in the many other states which currently provide Naturopaths with prescriptive privileges.

Sincerely,



Abby Laing, President
Alaska Association of Naturopaths

1-21-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Joyce Sarles and I urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I have been a patient of, Emily Kane, a Naturopathic doctor, in Juneau for over 30 years. There have been times during those years that she has been restricted in the care she was able to provide. For example, it would have been much less complicated if she could have prescribed antibiotics for an infection rather than making it necessary for me to see an additional health care provider that was not as familiar with my health care needs to obtain the necessary antibiotic.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Joyce Sarles

1-16-18

Dear Senator Costello and Members of Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

I am writing to encourage you to place SB 120 on the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee's agenda at your earliest convenience to give the committee an opportunity to vet the bill and forward it to the next step in the legislative process.

As pointed out in the bill sponsor's statement:

"SB120 establishes a clear scope of practice for naturopathic doctors, consistent with their nationally accredited education and training. In doing so, this bill will increase options, access and competition in Alaska's health care market.

Current law provides little definition of what naturopathic doctors can and cannot do. This has led to very conservative regulatory interpretations over the years, resulting in Alaska having some of the more restrictive regulations in the nation."

I and my family prefer the more holistic approach naturopaths take to preserving and restoring health and find their services very beneficial. I see no reason the state should restrict naturopaths from serving the public to the extent of their capability.

I would expect that state regulators would be glad to allow naturopaths more latitude to serve the public as well.

Thank you,

Mike Prax
1015 Meadow Rue
North Pole, AK 99705
(907) 378-5667

1-16-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Kourtney Roy and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training. I think this is extremely important considering the rigorous work that these doctors go through to obtain their degree. Individual's should have a choice about the kind of practitioner they are going to see to best care for themselves.

I can give an example of this care from my own personal life. My naturopathic doctor was on maternity leave and I attempted to see a physician in town about some health concerns. It took me 6 weeks to get an appointment, and when I went in for the appointment I didn't get to see the doctor I had asked for and scheduled for, but another practitioner that is a PA-C. I was spoke to for about 5 minutes about what was going on, given a prescription and many, many vials to provide samples all with different instructions. Following her maternity leave I called to see my naturopath, I was able to get in the following week about the same problem. I was able to sit down with the doctor and discuss what was going on for over 30 minutes, she asked about my diet, activity, stress levels, sleep, etc. and we developed a plan of action to care for myself, which included providing medically necessary samples. I understand that this is not everyone's goal when working with health care providers, but I also think their education and abilities should be considered comparable to that of other types of practitioners in town.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Kourtney Roy, MS, CSCS, EIM

1-13-18

To: Members of the Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Mia Costello, Shelley Hughes, Kevin Meyer, Gary Stevens, Berta Gardner, Cathy Giessel

CC: Jane Conway and AK Naturopaths,

Dear Committee Members,

I'm Kevin Painter from Eagle River, Alaska and I'm writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which appropriately updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors. This update is vital to help reflect their education and training.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are highly trained to do will help me, my wife Kacy, and our son Hayden when dealing with current or possibly future health care needs. Our family have utilized numerous naturopath doctors in Alaska. In many cases, it was their care and treatment that addressed/healed many of our conditions and helped us remain productive workers, a student, and Eagle River community members. I can't stress how important this update and their service are to Alaskans like ourselves. In addition, their care has reduced our health care expenses to our insurance (Blue Cross & Blue Shield) and our out of pocket costs.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better and more economical health care in the GREAT LAND- Alaska.

Thank you,

Kevin Painter

9640 Etolin Circle (Eaglewood Subd.)

Eagle River, AK 99577

1-11-18

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is being written to urge you to support SB 120 to increase the scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors.

I am a lifelong Alaskan who utilizes naturopathic medicine in several contexts. I myself see a naturopathic doctor, and value the emphasis on disease prevention. In addition, I work as a mental health counselor with adolescents and adults. I often refer my patients to naturopathic services and have seen the value of their work beyond my own health.

Naturopathic doctors in Alaska have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers with equal or lesser training. There are many states that do offer a larger scope of practice to Naturopaths and they are able to practice safely, and offer more services to their patients. The health care costs in our state are huge, and we deserve to have options for our care, and to allow more competition for medical services to drive down costs in Alaska.

Again, I urge you to support SB 120 and allow Alaskan's to work safely with Naturopathic doctors, in a an environment where there scope of practice reflects their extensive training.

Thank you,

Olivia Foote
Licensed Professional Counselor

1-8-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training, bringing it more in line with what is practiced safely and effectively by Naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country.

As the national debate in the past year has highlighted, health care costs in Alaska are among the highest in the country. This places a tremendous burden on Alaskan families and is one of the key drivers for government spending. We should be pursuing policies which can cut health care costs. SB120 is a step in the right direction.

I have been treated by Naturopathic doctors and found their treatment approach quite effective. They use a holistic approach of getting to the root cause of health problems, including addressing dietary excesses and deficiencies, as well as exercise, stress, and sleep status. I've found in my personal experience that conventional medicine has become increasingly characterized by very limited office visits and an over reliance on prescription medications which suppress symptoms, with little attention to resolving the underlying causes. I believe that this approach does far too little in the way of preventing health issues from escalating into expensive full-blown and chronic diseases. Prescription medications are sometimes needed in the short term, combined with a robust focus on discovering the underlying cause of the health issue and preventing future problems. It has been a source of frustration for me in the past that my naturopathic physicians have not had the ability to prescribe medications as part of their treatment plan. As result, I've had to also use the services of nurse practitioners, physician's assistants or MDs, increasing costs to myself and to my healthcare plan.

I'm a retired Alaskan teacher, insured under the AlaskaCare plan. Savings in my healthcare cost are savings for the State. Naturopathic medicine is a good modality for preventing and resolving expensive health conditions. Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will not only benefit the Alaskan people, but will benefit the state overall, by helping to reduce health care costs in Alaska.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our state.

Sincerely,
Ann Agosti-Hackett
PO Box 15344
Fritz Creek AK 99603

Date: January 8, 2018

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Patricia Jeffers and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

I have personally had such wonderful assistance from my naturopath physician that continued improvements can only benefit us all. Again I repeat that helping here by this change will allow more focus - especially on preventative, as it has certainly made quality difference in my health and many others with health issues.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Respectfully,

Patricia L. Jeffers

8761 Jewel Terrace Circle

Anchorage, AK 99502

1-5-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Ruth Carter, a resident near Sand Lake in Anchorage. I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care challenges in Alaska, we have the opportunity to be the leaders in pursuing policies that provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

I have seen a naturopathic doctor as my primary care provider for over 20 years now. While I understand the benefits of medication when needed, I am a strong proponent of the great care I have received.

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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Best regards,

Ruth Carter

PO Box 221472,

Anchorage AK 99522

907-333-3756

1-5-18

Please support Senate Bill 120 when you are presented the opportunity.

It makes sense to have Naturopathic physicians provide their medical talents to Alaskans.

My experiences with Naturopathic physicians in Alaska dates back to 1979, just prior to the birth of our first of three children.

All three benefitted from ND care, and all are healthy and productive as they age.

Rick Dawson, Alaskan for nearly 50 years

PO Box 93054

Anchorage, AK 99509

907 243 1262

dawson@rrdawson.com

1-5-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Susan Barnes and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I have always sought out naturopathic care for my family and have often been frustrated that they are often limited in what they can perform in our state in comparison to other states. It seems ridiculous to me to limit perfectly qualified practitioners from performing the work they have been trained today. In an overworked health care system naturopathic doctors provide an alternative choice to Alaskans.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Susan Barnes

December 2, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

RE: Senate Bill 120

Ms. Conway,

My name is Triann McAllister and I am writing you to urge you to please support Senate Bill 120, which seeks to update the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors. This bill will allow the Naturopaths to use their education and training to the best of their abilities.

The changes proposed in SB 120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around our great country. I would love to see Alaska, with our very unique challenges in basic health care, lead in the changing of policies that provide consumers with more options as to the type of care they receive and with greater access to affordable care.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they were trained to do will benefit the state over all by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. And best of all, in my opinion, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health and helping the body heal itself, if this bill is passed, it will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 120 for a critical step in better health care for all Alaskans.

Triann M. McAllister

P.S. I have recently changed to a Naturopath for treatment of reflux and type 2 diabetes and the scope of care that I am now receiving is quite different. I want her as my primary care physician and if SB 120 is passed, she will be able to prescribe my needed pharmaceuticals thus allowing her to enter into the scope of my medical care as a regular MD and I won't need to continue with the "mainstream" clinics as I now do for the needed prescriptions.

11-29-17

Dear Senator,

My name is Dena Kelley, I live in Eagle River, Alaska. I am writing to ask you to vote in support of SB120. As a patient whose primary care physician is a Naturopathic Doctor, I strongly believe that my doctor should be able to practice medicine in accordance with her high level of training. It makes no sense to me that a Nurse Practitioner, as an example, can write a prescription for Rx medicine but my doctor with her higher level of training cannot currently do so in the State of Alaska. This forces me, as a patient, to see other Doctors or Nurse Practitioners for redundant blood work and to pay additional medical bills in order to receive the medicines that my ND should be able to prescribe. It costs me more personal time, more time off work, and several hundred dollars per doctor visit each time I have to do this.

Naturopathic medicine is wonderfully complimentary to standard medicine and benefits the State of Alaska by having highly trained ND's here to serve Alaskan patients. In the past 8 years, my ND has earned my trust and has become my primary care physician- I see her before I see any other doctor. She has found the root cause and treated my acid reflux (which I had been on 9 years of Rx acid blocking meds for previously), she found and treated my Hashimotos thyroiditis (which had been missed by other doctors), she has found and treated me for severe food allergies and sensitivities which has enabled me to lose 90 lbs, and she was able to treat and cure my chronic back pain that another doctor only prescribed Vicodin for. No other doctor ever even suggested that there may be a treatable root cause to my conditions. My health is vastly better under the care of my Naturopathic Physician, and I know other Alaskans would benefit greatly as well. By treating root cause of illness, it allows patients to return to health, rather than to remain chronically ill and dependent on prescriptions for the long term. This saves money overall- a healthy person is inexpensive to insure, doesn't need to take sick days, and can work longer over the course of their lifetime. There's a real benefit to society, and supporting SB120 will help Alaskans to realize the full benefits of Naturopathic care that other states already enjoy, and by enabling Naturopathic Doctors to practice the full scope of medicine they have been trained for, Alaska can begin to attract more ND's to practice here.

It's frustrating to me as a patient to be forced to spend extra time and extra money seeing another doctor I don't need to see simply to get the medicine my Naturopathic Doctor has already told me I need but is unable to prescribe. Please support SB120.

Thank you,

Dena Kelley

PO Box 771003

26600 White Spruce Drive

Eagle River, AK 99577

(907) 229-0896

11-14-2017

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Melissa Lilly. I live in Anchorage and am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training. I feel this is so important for us who live in Alaska. I am a patient of a Naturopathic doctor and have very good health because of him. I just wish he could do what he is trained to do. Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will not only benefit me as a consumer, but will benefit the state as a whole. It will increase competition and help drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care well into the future.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 am hoping you will support SB120 and help us make Alaska a healthier state.

Sincerely,

Melissa Lilly

DEAR SENATOR GIESSEL,

9 NOVEMBER, 2017

AS I MENTIONED TO YOU RECENTLY IN AN EMAIL THAT I SENT YOU, I WANT TO VOICE MY SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 120. I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE SPONSOR OF THIS BILL, AND FOR THAT I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS.

I HAVE BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE EVER SINCE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH DR. EMILY KANE STARTED. SHE HAS BEEN MY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR OVER 15 YEARS, AND I ABSOLUTELY THINK THE WORLD OF HER.

IT WAS VERY DISHEARTENING SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT WITHIN THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO RESTRICT THE KIND OF CARE THAT NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS CAN PROVIDE IN ARIZONA. SO TO SEE AN EFFORT ON YOUR BEHALF TO ACTUALLY INCREASE THE SCOPE OF CARE THAT ND'S CAN PROVIDE IS RIGHT ON.

THANK YOU SENATOR GIESSEL.

MOST SINCERELY,

ROBERT SINGERTEIG
JUNEAU

September 26, 2017

Please support SB 120 to extend powers for naturopaths in Alaska. Naturopathic doctors have the required education and licensure that justifies these changes. In my own experience, using more than one naturopath through the years, this form of medical service has been most beneficial. The only negative aspect of naturopathic service has been the restrictions on what they can do. Please vote in favor of SB 120 to improve the lives of Alaskans. Thank you.

Patricia Meritt

620 Eton Blvd

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(907) 474-0841

September 20, 2017

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Rebecca Nidiffer and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I am a retired teacher, thus using the state retiree medical insurance. I had a condition that my medical doctors could not diagnose. After going to the Mayo Clinic and getting no answers, I was referred to a naturopathic doctor. She was able to diagnose my condition and after 2 years of treatment I am back to all my normal activities. It has changed my life. However, she cannot prescribe medication for me. So I now have to go to and pay 2 different doctors to get a prescription. It really makes my medical expenses much higher than they would be if I could eliminate that second doctor appointment every time I need a new medication or prescriptions renewed.

There are many other positives related to this bill but this is my personal concern. And it should be a concern to the state, in these lean times, to try cutting expenses.

Thank you for your attention.

Rebecca Nidiffer
tnidiffer@gci.net

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is **Bill Beistline** and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

If you care about Alaskans, and their freedom to have choices in their health care providers, then you will support this bill.

Sincerely,

Bill Beistline



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

From: Kylara Hollingsworth [mailto:jovoga@alaska.net]

Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 6:50 PM

To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Jane Conway <Jane.Conway@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB120 Please support it

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Carla (Kylara) Hollingsworth and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

My family has used Naturopathic medicine and practitioners to a large degree for most of our lives due to the preventative nature of the practice. I have been frustrated over the years to find that the scope of practice for Naturopaths in Alaska is currently less than the training that practitioners receive. For example, when I need a minor in-office surgical procedure, I have to find someone in another office to assist me. This sends me to multiple appointments to fulfill a need which adds to financial cost and requires more time from work and school. etc.

I think it is important to note that Naturopathic doctors practice safely under the whole scope of their training in many other states. But, up to now Alaska's Naturopaths have been held to a more limited scope of practice even than other health care providers in Alaska - with equal or lesser 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

Given our unique health care challenges in Alaska, what can we do to lead the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care? It is likely that regulating naturopathic doctors appropriately will encourage more young practitioners to move to Alaska and serve Alaskans. You see, naturopathic doctors qualify for Indian Health Service's national loan repayment program aimed to increase access to remote Alaska. However, they are unable to make use of this program due to the limited scope of practice.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will not only benefit my family and me as a health care consumers, but will benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Carla (Kylara) Hollingsworth

Anchorage, AK
907-250-5891

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

Each of us has our own unique experiences with the medical community because of our life experiences. As we age - we, often by necessity, have more experiences with doctoring and consequently have more medical circumstances to discuss. And some, like me, have become extremely concerned about the direction that the mainstream health practitioners/medical doctors are leading their patients.

The collective health of the nation, Alaska is included, is declining, in part, because of inflexible medical protocols. It is extremely difficult, at times, impossible to find a doctor that is willing to practice anything outside of the AMA published practices. Since each of us is unique and each of us has needs and specific requirements to - get to health and wellness - and then to maintain it, we need medical practitioners who will take on the challenges presented by their patients.

Please, by every means available to you, have Senate Bill 120 pass so the naturopathic physicians can provide care when other medical doctors refuse to take on the medical challenges that do not always have a book solution they are familiar with practicing.

I am a heart attack survivor who has had great difficulty finding a doctor that will even consider some of my health and diet issues. Fortunately, I found a naturopathic doctor who is willing to take the time to discuss my situation and provide real medical expertise where medical doctors refused or simply did not have the fortitude to deviate from protocol to assist where needed.

It is my expectation that the members of the Alaska Senate will prudently look at the need to have knowledgeable, dedicated medical practitioners for all of us who reside in Alaska. And by expanding the role that naturopathic doctors can exercise, this will most certainly expand the assistance available to Alaskan's who have special needs.

Should you want to hear my specific story, you may call my phone number below anytime in the evening or on weekends. I am counting on you to provide that help that you are capable of providing through voting for Senate Bill 120.

Thanks in advance and best wishes,



Ken Hoganson
907-378-5340
ken@hoganson.com
31 August 2017

9-1-17

It has come to my attention that SB 120 will soon be put before the Senate. I strongly encourage you to vote for this bill as it would allow naturopathic physicians to practice medicine to the extent to which they were trained. Currently they are limited in their practice, particularly in being able to *prescribe prescription medications or perform minor office surgeries* i.e., repairing lacerations. It must be frustrating for them to not be able to function at their full potential, and I personally know it has been frustrating for me.

I much prefer to use naturopathic physicians. They have always been more thorough and more concerned about me as an individual with my own individual needs. Allopathic physicians, although they certainly have their place, often have not been thorough in my own personal medical care. At times, though, I have been forced to go to an allopathic physician after seeing a naturopathic doctor only because the naturopath was not able to perform care in their scope of training. That only drives costs up, not only for me personally, but also for insurance.

I much prefer dealing with health from a preventive vantage, and the naturopathic physicians have always worked with me to get at the root cause of whatever my issues have been giving me ways and means to build my health instead of blanketing the symptoms with a common pharmaceutical. But there has been a time when getting a simple prescription that I needed would have required me to make a separate appointment with an M.D. just so he could write the prescription. That was very frustrating when the naturopathic doctor could have easily done that having had the training in school and having once been able to do that when she practiced in another state prior to moving to Alaska. Now she is gone moving on to a state where she can practice to her full potential. So sad. She was an excellent provider. Our loss.

But even more important than my own personal experiences, they would be able to provide medical care in the villages since they qualify for the Indian Health Services national loan repayment program which is meant to expand healthcare to the villages, yet they are unable to make use of it due to their limited practice.

Please consider voting for SB 120 in order to provide our citizens with the opportunity for better healthcare.

Sincerely,

Vicky Mitchell

Fairbanks

Sept. 11, 2017

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Calisa Kastning and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I am writing on behalf of my family of 5! I feel fortunate to have a Naturopath physician as our healthcare provider here in Anchorage. Our Naturopath physician gives us tools on how to stay healthy and therefore we have been able to avoid high costs of urgent care and emergency care visits, therefore lessening the financial burden on our family. I know that 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Calisa Kastning

August 29, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Joanie Waller and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I have gone to Naturopathic physicians for most of my life and believe their profession offers the well-rounded personalized health support that is lacking in other more specialized medical practices. I have benefited in many ways from the excellent diagnostic, preventative, and curative methods practiced by these physicians and I look forward to them being allowed to fully do what they do best. Their scope of practice should be allowed to be fully utilized in Alaska, and, with the passage of SB 120, they will be able to practice to the full extent as they do in other states.

Furthermore, keeping Alaskan's healthy can save health care costs, and, especially since our state is so spread out, inviting Naturopaths to practice in remote towns and villages can help do that. Removing the current limitations on the scope of practice can encourage new Naturopathic doctors to come to Alaska rather than deter them.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,
Joanie Waller
315 Third St
Juneau AK 99801

September 15, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jessica Caudill and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Jessica Caudill

August 31, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Tinessa Fields and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Tinessa N Fields

Sept. 10, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is **Linda Hill** and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Linda Hill

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

From: samndeb@acsalaska.net [mailto:samndeb@acsalaska.net]

Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 12:59 PM

To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Jane Conway <Jane.Conway@akleg.gov>; Aknaturopaths@gmail.com

Subject: Support Senate Bill 120

Please support Senate Bill 120 allowing Naturopaths in Alaska to practice to the fullest extent of their training. Prevention based care saves consumers and insurers and the state money. Allowing full extent of practice will improve health care access for all Alaskans by increasing the number of primary providers.

Please support SB 120 and wellness in Alaska.
Thank you for your consideration.

Debera Cokeley
2194 Cascade St.
Juneau, AK 99801
907-789-3485

Sept. 6, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Valerie DeLaune, LAc, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Valerie DeLaune, LAc

Valerie DeLaune, LAc (Licensed Acupuncturist)
Clinic: Alaskan Natural Care Clinic (907) 435-7060

Hello Senators,

I am writing urging you to support Senate Bill 120 updating the regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in Alaska. I am an ND practicing in Fairbanks, and this bill would allow me to better serve my patients and use the full scope of my medical training. I attended UAF for my undergraduate degree then went on to complete the 4 year doctorate in naturopathic medicine with a one year clinical residency. With the current limitations of our scope I have to refer all of my patients that require any prescription medications, which is a waste of time and money for the people I serve. We are trained as primary care physicians, and our scope of practice in other states reflects this. Our training meets or exceeds that of other primary care providers currently licensed in AK (MD's, DO's, NP's, PA's). The regulations in AK are outdated and severely limit how we can practice. Naturopathic doctors are uniquely positioned to address the causes of chronic disease that are driving up healthcare costs nationwide. Our training emphasizes lifestyle changes as a first line therapy when appropriate, which are an affordable, sustainable way to address chronic illness.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, and would love to continue to raise my family and serve my patients here in this community. With the current state of regulations for naturopathic doctors in AK my husband and I have strongly considered moving out of state where I can have a less limited practice. I urge you to consider updating our scope of practice so I can offer these services in Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Suzette Mailloux ND

--

Suzette Mailloux ND
Holistic Medical Clinic
222 Front Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-451-7100 Fax 907-451-7168

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9-4-17

I am a voting Alaskan and want to urge you to consider addressing the health needs of Alaskans and of naturopathic doctors who serve us. Please reform naturopathic health care in Alaska and make Senate Bill 120 law.

Alaskans suffer from some of the highest health care costs in the nation and many areas--including Fairbanks--are underserved. Naturopaths are valued practitioners in their communities working to bridge these issues for healthy Alaskans. The education and training naturopaths receive qualifies them for effective care well beyond the scope of practice Alaska's licensing for naturopathic doctors allows. In other words, current law is limiting the efficacy of naturopaths in underserved areas where their care is needed and valued!

SB120 redefines the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Alaska to reflect their education and training. Among other things, the bill allow licensed practitioners to perform minor office procedures (surgeries) and issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications. Allowing naturopathic doctors to practice within the full scope of their training will immediately increase the number of primary care providers in Alaska. Please do your part by supporting SB 120 to improve health care access, increase competition in the market and help drive down costs.

Thank you for considering constituent priorities.

Jennifer Reed

1389 Richard Berry Dr

Fairbanks, AK 99709

9-3-17

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Kate Finn, an R.N./ Nurse Practitioner in Alaska since January of 1977. I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120). This bill updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors, reflecting more closely their education and training!

I am an eclectic consumer of health care, using M.D.'s, Naturopaths, Chiropractors, Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Massage Therapists. Each of these trained and skilled Health Care Providers is a specialist in their own field. In some cases their therapies overlap, and in many cases their therapeutic focus is quite different, but can achieve the same ends—the healing of the "patient". Each person, and illness may require the best of more than one option to achieve the healing end-point. Rarely do I use only one modality to approach an illness issue for myself. AND I believe each person should have the choice of as many healing modalities as possible to support and remedy their bodies!

Allowing Naturopathic Doctors to practice their full scope of training, will increase the number of primary care providers in this state, improving access to care, and helping to lower medical care costs through increased competition. A Naturopaths focus tends to be on prevention, so over time this type of care, we know, saves money for consumers, and the state. Naturopaths Doctors practice safely under their full scope of training in many other states—WHY not here??

I urge you to pass this legislation!!

Senator Stevens, if you are not going to support this , I would like you to tell me why.

Grateful for all your work!

Kate Finn

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

From: **Chris Laing** <chrislain@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 30, 2017 at 12:33 PM

Subject: support for Senate Bill 120 (SB 120)

To: Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov, Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov, Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov,
Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov, Senator.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov, Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

FROM: Chris Laing

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training. I have been a recipient of Naturopathic care both here in Alaska and in the State of Oregon. I have always felt safe and professionally treated for the causes as well as symptoms of my health concerns with an eye toward prevention.

I have a family member who became a Naturopathic Physician at the same time as her then partner became an Allopathic General Practitioner. I was able to observe first hand the equal rigor of their training. I have personally benefited from both forms of practice. I believe we need both approaches in order to address the increasing demand for health care in this state.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in Oregon as well as many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Chris Laing

Sept. 11, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jonathan Miller. I'm a licensed professional counselor in Fairbanks, Alaska, and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors.

I believe the changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 my clients who desperately need more access to quality physicians here in Fairbanks, but also benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Miller, LPC

Turning Point Counseling Services

Fairbanks, Alaska

August 29, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Keri Eggleston and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Keri Eggleston
1728 Glacier Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801

September 13, 2017

To: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

From: Alex Steelsmith

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I'm writing to ask you to please support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 consumers, but will benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,
Alex Steelsmith

1-15-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Kasey Holland and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

Naturopathic medicine is one of the best tools for utilizing preventative medicine to not only decrease healthcare costs, but restore and change health in communities. As a new naturopathic doctor I have seen success with patients ranging from diabetic care to mental health. Naturopathic physicians are skilled not only in natural therapies, but also pharmaceuticals. They can direct appropriate use of them, while preventing chronic disease.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 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 health care 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 consumers, but will benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in Alaska.

In good health,

Kasey Holland, ND

678-736-6000

KHolland@progressivemedicalcenter.com



4646 N. Shallowford Rd., Atlanta, GA 30338

This is Your Life... Live it Well!

1-10-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Vanessa Wiley and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Vanessa

Vanessa Wiley

Editorial Coordinator

NDNR / NaturalPath

Office: (888) 627-8677

Fax: 480.275.5089

www.ndnr.com | www.thenatpath.com

1-9-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Kasey Holland and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

Naturopathic medicine is one of the best tools for utilizing preventative medicine to not only decrease healthcare costs, but restore and change health in communities. As a new naturopathic doctor I have seen success with patients ranging from diabetic care to mental health. Naturopathic physicians are skilled not only in natural therapies, but also pharmaceuticals. They can direct appropriate use of them, while preventing chronic disease.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 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 health care 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 consumers, but will benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in Alaska.

In good health,

Kasey Holland, ND

406-570-8104

docndholland@gmail.com

1-8-18

Dear Ms. Conway:

My name is Rebecca Magowan and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120 and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Magowan
P.O. Box 81611
Fairbanks, AK 99708

1-8-18

To the Senate:

I'm writing to support SB120 to allow Naturopathic doctors to be able to write prescriptions and do procedures that they have been trained to do in the course of getting their medical degree.

Thanks,

Lance Roberts

Fairbanks, AK

9-4-17

I am a voting Alaskan and want to urge you to consider addressing the health needs of Alaskans and of naturopathic doctors who serve us. Please reform naturopathic health care in Alaska and make Senate Bill 120 law.

Alaskans suffer from some of the highest health care costs in the nation and many areas--including Fairbanks--are underserved. Naturopaths are valued practitioners in their communities working to bridge these issues for healthy Alaskans. The education and training naturopaths receive qualifies them for effective care well beyond the scope of practice Alaska's licensing for naturopathic doctors allows. In other words, current law is limiting the efficacy of naturopaths in underserved areas where their care is needed and valued!

SB120 redefines the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Alaska to reflect their education and training. Among other things, the bill allow licensed practitioners to perform minor office procedures (surgeries) and issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications. Allowing naturopathic doctors to practice within the full scope of their training will immediately increase the number of primary care providers in Alaska. Please do your part by supporting SB 120 to improve health care access, increase competition in the market and help drive down costs.

Thank you for considering constituent priorities.

Jennifer Reed

1389 Richard Berry Dr

Fairbanks, AK 99709

1-5-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jennifer Peters and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. This bill would provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will benefit me, my family, and others as consumers. Since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in Alaska.

Jennifer Peters

1-4-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Shelly Merrill and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Shelly Merrill

12-13-17

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 120. I am appealing to you as an Anchorage resident and as a practicing naturopathic doctor. SB 120 would allow naturopathic doctors to practice to the full extent of our training and provide patients with access to safe and effective medicine. Our focus on disease prevention has been proven to cut healthcare costs dramatically.

Over the 16 years I have practiced medicine in Anchorage, I have frequently been faced with referring a patient elsewhere, when I could have readily provided the necessary treatment if our scope were broader.

The current law does not allow naturopathic doctors to provide thorough care for our patients and leads to unnecessary and costly referrals. Our training exceeds that of certain other health care providers, yet in Alaska, we have a much more limited scope of practice.

Alaska is facing a shortage in primary care providers and we are well prepared to fill that role.

I urge you to support SB 120 and allow Alaskans to have better access to comprehensive health care. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Birgit Lenger, ND

Member Manager, Natural Health Center

3330 Eagle St, Anchorage, AK 99503

11-22-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Presley Coryell and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I am currently a senior at UAF, and will get my BS in Biological Science and physiology this upcoming spring. As an Alaska resident, I recognize the need for improved health care for our great state. I intend on going to med school after I graduate, either to become an MD or an ND. I strongly believe in the goals and beliefs emphasized in Naturopathic medicine and would love to further incorporate them into the Alaskan health care system.

In order to practice the most beneficial and efficient medicine, doctors must not be limited from utilizing such vital medical tools such as prescription drugs. Although the focus of Naturopathy emphasizes the use of homeopathic and preventative medicine, intertwining the benefits of both naturopathic and pharmaceutical medicines is the most effective method of creating a more healthy Alaska.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Best,

Presley Coryell

Future ND

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Maign Stone and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,



Maign Stone

October 12, 2017

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Linda Heck and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

As a lifelong Alaskan nearing retirement age, I am personally burdened by Alaska's high health care costs and limited number medical provider. I support SB120 because it is a step in the right direction to help alleviate these burdens for myself and all Alaskans.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120 and improved health care in our great state.

Sincerely,
Linda Heck

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Robin Wood and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Robin Wood

10-07-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Sharon Simko and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care challenges in Alaska, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies

which provide consumers with 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

health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SBI 20, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely with Thanks,

Sharon Simko

Batch 4

1-22-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Dear Senators,

I am a patient of Naturopathic Medicine in Alaska and I support scope expansion through SB 120.

The scope of practice for licensed Naturopathic doctors in Alaska does not reflect their full education and training and with SB120 the scope of practice for these naturopathic doctors is redefined allowing licensed practitioners to perform minor office procedures (surgeries), and issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications.

This will increase the number of primary care providers in Alaska, improving healthcare access and increasing the competition to help drive costs down. Since, with my experience, Naturopathic doctors' focus on prevention this will help decrease the utilization of health care and save money for consumers, insurers and the state.

I have utilized Naturopathic doctors in conjunction with my primary care. This teamwork did not come easy. I had to find a provider that would work with my Naturopathic to provide medications that I needed that my Naturopathic could not prescribe in the state of Alaska. However, if we were in Oregon for example, my Naturopathic could prescribe directly to me, instead of me having to see another provider wasting my time and money.

Speaking of time, when I go to see my provider, I spend more time in the waiting area and checking in than I do seeing the provider. When I see my Naturopathic doctor, we spend at least an hour discussing all parts of my wellness so she can get a whole picture of me. This patient centered care is incredibly important and needed for proper diagnosing and planning of action.

I have benefited from Naturopathic care. For over five years I have had my thyroid levels checked with "normal" results with my primary care but I knew there was more to the story. When I saw my Naturopathic doctor and she listened to my symptoms and feelings she then ordered different tests to confirm that I had Hashimoto's disease. This had not even been brought up by my primary care provider that this was even a possibility.

For over two years now I have been working with both my primary care and Naturopathic doctor. Instead of working with both I would rather work with just one provider, unless a second opinion is needed.

I support SB120 as I know that Alaska will be a better place to live with its expansion.

Renna Hoener

523 Craig Ave

Fairbanks, AK 99701

1-25-18

To: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jodi Oakes and I urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120)

I believe in the validity of naturopathic doctors and think this bill will allow them to practice what they are trained to do. Naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative care, which I fully support, and I believe if this bill is passed will help to lower medical bills for Alaskans and make good health and healthcare more common here.

Thank you,
Jodi Oakes

1-29-18

Dear Senator and Member of Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

I, Donna Victors, am writing you to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB12,) 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 nation, which causes a burden on Alaskan families as well as too much government spending. Although difficult to address completely, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on PREVENTATIVE health, this bill, if passed, will help DECREASE the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future. Naturopaths treat the CAUSE instead of SYMPTOMS. Not all of us want DRUGS.

Thank you for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Donna Victors, 7449 S Babcock Bvd, Wasilla, AK 99623

1-30-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am reaching out to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Best, Polina Titarenko

1-31-18

This is a message in support of SB120, which I strongly support, and hope that you will recognize it's merits, also. The naturopaths here in Alaska, as well as nationwide, provide valuable health services, and should be allowed to practice commensurate with their education and expertise. They focus on disease prevention, rather than treatment after the fact, a much less costly plan in terms of time lost from work and financial outlay. Our healthcare costs are higher than elsewhere in the country, and while we're free to move to other states, as a lifelong Alaskan, I prefer to remain here.

Please follow this bill as it progresses for consideration, and vote to affirm it.
Thank you for your time, attention, and hard work on our behalf.

Yours truly,
Carol A. Anderson
P.O. Box 7077
Nikiski, AK 99635

1-31-18

From: Katherine Huber [mailto:katherinewhuber@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:18 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 120

Dear Senator Giessel,

My name is Kate Huber from Valdez, AK and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

As every Alaskan is keenly aware, healthcare costs in our state 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction and will impact me directly.

I have chosen a naturopathic doctor as my primary healthcare provider since moving to the state in 2009. I have been extremely pleased with this option in our state and would benefit from my primary care provider having the ability to write prescriptions as a part of my care. Recently, I started experiencing asthma symptoms and brought this up with my doctor at my recent appointment. Because my naturopathic doctor was unable to write me a prescription for an emergency inhaler for these symptoms, I am now forced to go to a different clinic simply for this prescription. This is inconvenient and expensive and demonstrates how SB120 would help make our state healthcare system more efficient.

I have experienced a level of healthcare with my naturopathic doctor in Alaska that I haven't experienced in any other healthcare setting. The amount of time that my doctor devotes to me and my preventative care is unmatched in any other setting. Like most Alaskans, regardless of political persuasion, I appreciate the freedom of choice in my healthcare decisions and urge you to support this bill which strengthens those options.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,
Kate Huber

P.O. Box 736
Valdez, AK 99686-0736

1-31-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Margaret E Lehl and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

As a retired RN with past experience in emergency nursing and school nursing, I am well aware of the need for access to affordable medical care as well as increased knowledge in disease prevention care for many of the families I had contact with.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely, Margaret E Lehl Nikiski, AK

2-4-18

To: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

I have been going to a Naturopath for 20 years in Juneau. When I first started going I had several health concerns. We first worked on cleaning up my digestive system. No drugs were used. And over the years my health stays in good order. I am now 72 and still climb all the ridges in Juneau.

Please let our Naturopaths practice to their full education and training. I wish my Doctor, yes Doctor, could perform minor office procedures, issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications.

My Doctor makes sure I do preventative things, exercise, yoga, walking, proper nutrients etc..

I feel this saves me money, saves Social Security money and this good State. Alaska naturopathic doctors have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers in Alaska with equal or lesser training. I would like to see more naturopathic doctors throughout the State of Alaska.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120. Please help Alaska move forward to being a better State in health care with Naturopaths.

Thanks Sandy R Williams

February 5, 2018

TO: Members of Senate Labor and Commerce

CC: All Legislators

Members of Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Phyllis Haggland and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill (SB 120) which updates the boundaries of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

The changes proposed in SB120 bring Naturopathic practice more in line with other States and European countries. It also gives consumers more choices for preventive health care, something that conventional medicine is not geared to. In my case only my Naturopath was willing to undertake the extensive RECODE prodigal from Bredesen in preventing and reducing dementia. And without Naturopathic care I would still be stuck on steroids for microscopic colitis instead of healed.

Giving consumers more options will also benefit the State by lowering health costs with increased competition, admittedly something the AMA does not support. But Alaskans need more choices and greater access to affordable health care.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120.

Yours in better health care for our State.

Phyllis Haggland

Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

Senator.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov

Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

Senator.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov

Jane.Conway@akleg.gov

Aknaturopaths@gmail.com

2-6-18

Dear members of the senate & commerce committee,

I, Cecilia Deatherage, urge you to support SB 120 to allow naturopathic doctors the legal rights & protection to practice fully within their extensive education & training scope.

As one who was a private practitioner of speech language pathology in Alaska for almost a decade, I understand each profession need to have thorough educational, as well practical standards & guidelines to provide optimal care for patients. Heath care, especially in Alaska, although nationwide has skyrocketed creating major stress on individuals & families. SB120 will help establish guidelines in Alaska to reflect a scope of practice safely & effectively practiced by naturopathic physicians in many lower 48 states. This bill will provide more options & competitive pricing in the healthcare industry of Alaska.

As an individual, and as a family, I look to naturopathic physicians for their expertise especially in preventative medicine. This bill is a win-win-win situation, for patients, doctors & the state of Alaska.

Thank you. Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Deatherage, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist

37041 Rafie St Soldotna, AK 99669

2-9-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jenni Opp and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Thank you for your Consideration,

Jenni Opp sweethotmama's@gmail.com 907-590-8036

2-12-18

To: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All legislators

My name is Colleen James. I have been a registered nurse working in Alaska for 31 years. I am writing you to support SB120 which will update the scope of practice for Naturopathic Physicians to reflect both their education and training. This bill will get us in line with most other states in the union. The focus of their training is **prevention of illness**. Their training includes 90 percent more emphasis on nutrition than most physicians get in a lifetime. Support of this bill will enable the state to **positively impact the crippling cost of our current spending on healthcare**. I strongly support **consumers having a choice** in how they spend their health care money. If you have been paying attention to cutting edge health research in the last few years you will be aware that **diet, vitamins, life style changes and natural substances have reversed many diseases and in addition they have also improved quality of life and with no side effects**. I have a grandson with severe Autism whose symptoms have improved 80% with diet and supportive supplements alone. It is clear that this state needs to help itself promote health rather than hindering people's ability to get the quality health care that they want for a reasonable price.

Thank you for supporting SB120.

Colleen James RN, BSN, BA, SANE A/P, Fellow Infant- Parent Mental Health U Mass Boston
PO Box 915 Homer, AK 99603

2-9-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jason Opp and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Thank you for your Consideration,

Jason Opp
907-347-7378

2-12-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Dr. Joshua Costello DC and I am writing you to urge you to support Senate Bill 120. This bill will allow Naturopathic doctors to practice within a scope in which they have been trained.

I can NOT believe this is even an issue!!!!

It is with good faith that all physicians go through school with the hopes that when they finally start practice and will be able to help their fellow man. It is extremely disheartening to learn depending on your state that your scope of practice may be far less that what your trained for in school. The state of Alaska is an embarrassing example of this is for Naturopathic doctors.

While I understand that laws are in place to protect the public and I respect these laws, it is hard to understand that through politics the Alaskan population have not gained access to the full potential of a full scope of practice for the Naturopathic doctor.

Isn't this why and what college accreditation and board exams are for? To weed out the people that are not qualified for the job. I believe that state scope of practice for any physician should reflect what is taught in school and any other state required continuing education.

It is obvious that Alaska has some of the highest costs for health care in the country and allowing Naturopathic doctors to practice as they have trained would help to drive down health costs. This in and of itself should be reason enough for this bill to pass based on good economics. Not to mention that the Naturopathic doctor offers unique knowledge and alternatives to the conventional medical model which has it obvious shortcomings. This is vital for the people of Alaska to have more choices and pathways when consuming medical care, because medical care intervention exists on a spectrum.

In a world of ever increasing chronic disease, I agree with the approach of prevention and education along with the most conservative intervention for patient care to deliver the very best health outcome for out patients.

I myself am a Chiropractor and know firsthand how happy people are when they have a medical issue that is resolved with a few visits at my office rather than a more invasive intervention like surgery or long- standing prescriptions to drugs.

Having said that I and also the Naturopathic doctors that I know, highly value integrative approach to care and being on a team that helps a patient reach its goals, which includes making referrals to other medical providers and communicating with those medical providers about our patients.

The Naturopathic doctor offers this kind of patient education and awareness to the public which is vital for helping an increasing population deal with health care costs and the lack of education relating to chronic disease.

When you restrict a Physician's scope you are quite literally taking tools out of there tool box and forcing them to help their patients with one hand tied behind their backs. The people of Alaska are the ones who suffer with regards to quality of life, access to appropriate medical care and cost of health care.

Please do not let the people of Alaska down by not passing this bill. Do the right thing and vote to allow a scope of practice that is based on training and not on politics.

Warmest Regards,
Dr. Joshua Costello DC

SENATE BILL 120 / HOUSE BILL 326: Alaska Naturopathic Health Care Reform

Problem

- 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
- Health care costs are a key driver increasing Alaska's budget
- The scope of practice for licensed Naturopathic doctors in Alaska does not reflect their full education and training. This is an area that has affected me in serving as a Naturopath

Solution

SB120/HB326 redefines the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Alaska to reflect their education and training. Among other things, the bill allows licensed practitioners to, within the scope of their training, perform minor office procedures and issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications. Which will allow them to provide more efficient primary care in Alaska.

Rationale

- 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, increase competition in the market and help drive down costs.
- 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).
- In Alaska, naturopathic doctors have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers in Alaska with equal or lesser training.
- Naturopathic doctors practice safely under this same scope in many other states.
- Regulating naturopathic doctors appropriately will encourage more young 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 Alaska but are unable to make use of this program due to the limited scope of practice.

Dr. Gary Ferguson BS, ND
Healthy Communities Consultant
2930 Capstan Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
907-632-3624 cell/home
www.drgaryferguson.com
natureway@mac.com

From: Gary Ferguson [mailto:natureway@me.com]
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2018 12:43 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Jane Conway <Jane.Conway@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB120/HB326 Naturopathic Healthcare in Alaska

Greetings Senator Giessel!

THANK YOU for your support of SB120!

I'm a practicing Naturopathic Doctor in Anchorage Alaska, and have been licensed in Alaska since 2001 (#0035). I'm originally from Sand Point in the Shumagin Islands (grandparents are Emil & Marina Gundersen from Sanak Island/Sand Point). Our Naturopathic Licensing Bill is currently slated to be heard in Senate and House Labor & Commerce followed by Finance.

I would love to be able to practice as I am trained in our region (and also have served the entire State of Alaska in my practice over the years). Having been licensed in the State of Oregon in the past, their licensing of ND's is much more progressive than Alaska - which allows us to practice as we are trained and tested by our national licensing exam the NPLEX.

ND's now have licenses to practice in 23 states and have been huge assets in the field of Integrative Medicine. We are especially good at wellness-based approaches to chronic disease.

I am proud to be the first Alaska Native Naturopathic Physician and have worked in the Alaska Tribal Health System as a public health professional serving my home area working for Eastern Aleutian Tribes (EAT) and then serving in leadership at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). I most recently served as RurAL CAP's CEO and am now a Healthy Communities Consultant working as a catalyst in our Alaskan communities to help communities address their well-being. I also serve as Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska School of Business & Public Policy and on the Municipality of Anchorage's Health Commission.

I believe Naturopathic Doctors will play a crucial role as we face escalating health care costs, as our modalities are especially helpful in counseling patients on behavior modification and addressing the dietary influences that address health promotion and chronic disease prevention. I have had the great honor in helping co-produce the award winning Store Outside Your Door initiative (www.youtube.com/anthcstoreoutside) - which aims to address food/nutrition insecurity in our rural communities through culturally appropriate ways to hunt, fish, gather and grow food. Our treatment philosophy is all about food as medicine. My life's work has been about addressing the social, economic, environmental and cultural determinants of health.

I've highlighted below some of the rationale for SB120/HB326. I appreciate your support. Please feel free to reach out to me, should you have any questions regarding the practice of Naturopathic Medicine or our practice in Alaska.

Best to you!

Gary

9-5-17

**TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators**

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Anna Deal and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

My family uses naturopathic care as our primary care because of its effectiveness and preventative nature. Naturopathic medicine has helped me personally with substantial health issues that standard medicine simply could not diagnose or remedy. The naturopathic solutions are substantially less expensive, more effective, and with positive rather than compromised long-term health effects.

It is frustrating to have to visit a different health care practitioner who is not familiar with our health history for treatments that our primary naturopathic care provider is trained to provide. The additional and unnecessary visit is time consuming and expensive.

Giving Alaska's health care professionals the legal ability to provide care that they were trained for just makes sense.

- **It provides Alaskans, especially those with limited health care resources in remote communities the most options for their health.**
- **It provides access to higher quality care by allowing people to stay with the primary care provider who knows them best for more procedures**
- **It reduces cost and time involved in accessing that care by eliminating additional unnecessary visits.**
- **It allows naturopathic health care practitioners to provide the care that they were trained to deliver and gives them access to all the tools that they know how to use in treatment.**
- **Procedures which are outside the scope of naturopathic training would still be referred to a specialist, so safety would not be compromised.**

The only benefit to over-burdensome and outdated limits to naturopathic care is to the standardized medical group, a special interest group who will use scare tactics in order to protect their interests.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120.

Sincerely,

**Anna Deal
16641 East Helmaur Place
Palmer, AK 99645**

October 9, 2017

TO: Senator Shelley Hughes (Senator.Shelley
Hughes@akleg.gov),
Representative Cathy Tilton
(Representitive.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)
CC: All Legislators, jane.conway@akleg.gov

Dear Legislators,

My name is **Eugene W. Yockey** and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors. Although difficult to address completely, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction because it allows Naturopathic doctors to practice what they were trained to do. Additionally, the changes proposed in SB 120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care challenges in Alaska, we should be leading the charge in pursuing policies which provide consumers with more options and greater access to affordable care. SB120 does that for those of us who want to use Naturopathic Doctors.

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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Eugene W. Yockey, Jr

Chugiak, Alaska



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

200 East Roosevelt Road Lombard, Illinois 60148-4539
P 630-889-6604 F 630-889-6600 E jstiefel@nuhs.edu

February 8, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

In support of Senate Bill 120, please accept this correspondence as a brief clarification regarding our student's ability to provide expanded health services to the people of Alaska. Students in the naturopathic medical degree program at National University of Health Sciences receive thorough instruction in Pharmacology. This training is delivered by Ph.D. in pharmacology, Pharm. D., MD instructors primarily. This is accomplished across three courses totaling approximately 100 hours. In addition to these designated times, the use of clinical pharmacology is taught across the curriculum in many other courses that focus on internal medicine topics and specialty populations such as Pediatrics. This includes instruction in the CDC Immunization Schedule.

In our clinical training, a very large proportion of our patient population uses a prescription medicine, as is normal for the US population. While we work with the patients to restore health, our graduates are trained and evaluated on recognizing the needs for these medications and to understand the suitability of various natural medicines in combination with these drugs. Our faculty have access to constantly updated herb-drug and drug-drug interactions databases and expect that our students develop expertise here.

This training also prepares our students for the pharmacology component of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations which encompasses a long list of legend drugs from all major categories.

Additionally, we instruct our students in Minor Surgery and office procedures such as wound inspection, debridement, repair (minor, such as non-facial lacerations), biopsy and other topics. This is taught by an MD with extensive surgical experience and students have both theory and lab instruction.

Should you require any additional information, the university would be happy to assist the committee.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Stiefel'.

Joseph Stiefel, MS, EdD, DC
President

cc: All Legislators

JOSEPH P. D. STIEFEL, M.S., Ed.D., D.C.
PRESIDENT

Esse Quam Videri

09-26-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Tony Simko and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

**Tony J. Simko
Program Coordinator/Instructor
Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technology
UAF Community & Technical College**

Sept. 9, 2017

Hello,

I ask you to support SB120.

The naturopathic doctors in my life have made a critical difference in my health and way of life. They are highly trained and skilled. SB120 will enable them to be less hampered in the areas that they, as doctors, should be able to do (such as prescribe medicine). SB120 will enable them to provide more comprehensive care to patients.

Please support SB120.

Thank you for all you do.

Lynda Ault
Fairbanks, AK
aalt39@gmail.com

9-2-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Susan Barnes and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Susan Barnes

(907)727-7111

3501 W 41st Ave #A

Anchorage, AK 99517

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

From: River Bean [<mailto:river@arcticorganics.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 4:06 PM

To: Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Jane Conway <Jane.Conway@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 120

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is River Bean and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

CHRISTINE L. SIMKO, N.D.

800 McGrath Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99712
Phone: 907.347.9640
christinesimko@gmail.com
drsimko@goodmedicineworks.com

October 2, 2017

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Juneau, Alaska

RE: Senate Bill 120

Dear Legislators:

My name is Christine Simko and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training. I am one of those NDs and I feel I could be helping many more people should I be allowed to use my full scope of training in practice.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic

doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Christine Simko, ND

Sept. 11, 2017

DEAR SENATORS:

THANKS VERY MUCH..... YOUR CONSIDERATION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 120, TO REALISTICALLY EXPAND SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ALASKA NATURPATHS.

THE BILL WOULD:

--IMPROVE HEALTH CARE, WITH EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION

--INCREASE NUMBER OF PRIMARY PROVIDERS

--ENHANCE FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN MEDICAL CARE

--REDUCE MED CARE COSTS

THANKS AGAIN FOR ANY OF YOUR EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF THE MOST COSTLY MEDICAL INDUSTRY IN HISTORY!

SINCERELY,

KARL SCHOEPPE

JUNEAU, AK

9-5-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Kari Sellars and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Kari Sellars

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Jim Simko and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,



Jim Simko

9/27/17

J&S Service LLC
Fairbanks, Alaska
jim@arcticlinkalaska.com
Ph: 907-4573850
Fax: 907-4577895
Cell: 907-5901974
www.arcticlinkalaska.com
Alaska business Lic # 1003064
VOSB

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Laurie Steelsmith N.D., LAc.

DATE: September 13, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am writing to ask you to please support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Laurie Steelsmith N.D., L.Ac.
Naturopathic Physician, Acupuncturist, and Author
Medical Director of Steelsmith Natural Health Center
www.DrSteelsmith.com; www.SteelsmithHealth.com
(808) 943-0330**

1-10-18

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Sally Stuart and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training. I wrote once before on October 26, 2013, when the legislature tried and passed regulation to limit how Naturopath's can practice medicine. These doctors study and learn as much and more as your traditional MD, just a different method of providing healthcare. A method of health and prevention BEFORE you get sick, but afterwards too if you become ill.

American people are not happy with conventional medical care and are seeking information and care through alternative means. I know I have.

Uninformed people would have us believe that medical treatment outside the purview of conventional medicine is all quackery. This shows lack of knowledge and history of true holistic medicine from different sources, be it homeopathy, naturopathy, herbalists and more. Those options got us through difficult times, before drugs and the paradigm of prescription chemical drugs came into being with the discovery of penicillin and of course the power-hungry tyrant John Rockefeller.

Destroying any Competition to Western Medicine

"Rockefeller saw that there were many types of doctors and healing modalities in existence at that time, from chiropractry to naturopathy to homeopathy to holistic medicine to herbal medicine and more. He wanted to eliminate the competitors of western medicine (the only modality which would propose drugs and radiation as treatment, thus enriching Rockefeller who owned the means to produce these treatments), so he hired a man called Abraham Flexner to submit a report to Congress in 1910. This report "concluded" that there were too many doctors and medical schools in America, and that all the natural healing modalities which had existed for hundreds or thousands of years were unscientific quackery. It called for the standardization of medical education, whereby only the allopathic-based AMA be allowed to grant medical school licenses in the US."

"Sadly, Congress acted upon the conclusions and made them law. Incredibly, allopathy became the standard mainstream modality, even though its 3 main methods of treatment in the 1800s had been blood-letting, surgery and the injection of toxic heavy metals like lead and mercury to supposedly displace disease! It should be noted that hemp was also demonized and criminalized not long after this, not because there is anything dangerous about it, but because it was a huge threat (as both medicine and fuel) to the Rockefeller drug and oil industries, respectively."

"Greek physician Hippocrates wrote:

Nature heals. The doctor's task consists in strengthening the natural healing powers, to direct them, and especially not to interfere with them."

<http://www.thesleuthjournal.com/western-medicine-rockefeller-medicine-way/>

Medicine is big business for the government and economy. It is set up with chemical treatment to provide help for the symptoms of illness, but no real cures ... thus repeat visits. The Naturopathic protocols are different and even more valuable. LET them practice their form of healthcare to the fullest. Government complains of the high cost of healthcare, but never wants to do anything or listen to different preventions to lower those costs. Medical licenses from accredited Naturopathic Universities should not be treated any differently from any Traditional medical school.

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 health care costs in Alaska.

9-2-17

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Dianna Taplin and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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. And our choices for alternative treatments are few. Although difficult to address completely, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. A growing number of people choose to be responsible for their own health by improved eating and exercise habits. People like us would prefer to prevent disease rather than treat symptoms and manage disease. Prevention rather than treatment would seriously decrease the burdensome cost of health care as it now operates.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to do what they are trained to do will benefit me as a consumer by allowing me to choose a system that matches my lifestyle and world view. But will also benefit the state overall, by increasing competition and helping to drive down health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state, and for allowing regular people to have a say in how they achieve their health goals.

Sincerely,

Dianna Taplin

**Box 1567
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
cell 907-252-2249**

9-3-17

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Nina Tartakoff and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), which updates the scope of practice for Naturopathic doctors to reflect their education and training.

I find my naturopath to be my most valuable doctor in helping me deal with my auto-immune disease. Her training is different than my primary doctor and her ability to order labs and have insurance pay for them is critical in my care. My naturopath's view and treatment of this illness has kept me healthy and off costly medications.

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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Nina Tartakoff

1-16-18

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Claire Torbensen-Armstrong and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Claire Torbensen-Armstrong
PO Box 773305
Eagle River, AK 99577

TO: Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
CC: All Legislators

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

My name is Nicole A Tragis and I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 120 (SB120), 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, SB120 offers one obvious step in the right direction.

The changes proposed in SB120 reflect a scope of practice that is being practiced safely and effectively by naturopathic physicians in many other states around the country. Given our unique health care 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 health care costs in Alaska. In addition, since naturopathic doctors focus more on preventative health, this bill, if passed, will help decrease the need for expensive health care for Alaskans well into the future.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB120, and for taking one step toward better health care in our great state.

Sincerely,

Nicole A Tragis

907-723-2343

akcaptaincrown@hotmail.com

Juneau, Alaska

From: Emily Kane
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Cc: [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Subject: HB326 - modernizing scope of practice for Naturopathic Physicians
Date: Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:40:11 PM

Dear Representative Kito

My office is two blocks away from yours and I have served the people of Juneau, and beyond, with whole-health, patient-centered primary care services for 25 years. My undergrad training was at Harvard University and my doctorate training at Bastyr University in Seattle. I spent 24 years pursuing education beyond high school. And yet, in the state of Alaska, I work with one hand tied behind my back. I'm not allowed to suture wounds, nor prescribe basic life-saving emergency medications nor even use IV saline for rehydration. Since hormones and even some vitamins have become "prescription only" I cannot dispense medicines about which I have published numerous peer-reviewed papers, and 2 books. I am arguably Juneau's expert on bio-identical hormones (the topic of one of my books) but I cannot dispense them here because of a ridiculously arcane law.

My skill set is being wasted while the public craves access to the healthcare modality of their choice. Alaska's medical insurers (all of them except Medicare and Medicaid) list NDs on their rosters as primary care doctors because we do good work. We are well educated. We listen to our patients and we aim to cure them — not get them hooked on drugs. Insurers are excellent at assessing risk, and they know NDs provide fantastic value.

You can help by scheduling a hearing of HB 236 ASAP. It is a modest bill that slightly updates our scope of practice, which is long overdue. Kevin Jardell and the ASMA crew will try to tell you NDs are dangerous and poorly educated. Please see <http://naturopathicstandards.org/naturopathic-medical-education-a-comprehensive-curriculum/> to compare ND and MD education. Check out the difference between malpractice cases against NDs in the past 20 years (1, which was dismissed) versus cases against MDs.

Let me know if I can supply any further documentation of the safety, efficacy and good value that Naturopathic physicians provide in communities all over the state. But we could be so much more useful! And new docs are not moving here despite excellent insurance reimbursement.

Thank you for your service.

Best wishes

Emily Kane ND

Juneau AK

www.DrEmilyKane.com

www.naturopathic.org

www.primarydoctor.org

Join with me in
Cultivating Exuberance

From: Julianna
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: HB 326
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:23:38 PM

Hello Rep Kito,

I understand that HB 326 concerning the licensing of naturopaths is waiting to be scheduled in the Labor and Commerce committee. I am one of your constituents who regularly uses a local naturopathic doctor as my primary physician. Dr Emily Kane has been my physician for about 25 years and I love her choices of non-invasive procedures and her methods of addressing underlying causes of disease rather than simply treating symptoms with drugs or surgery. I would very much like for her to be able to use her full set of skills while caring for me in a natural way. It is very frustrating to find that my physician of choice is unable to help me simply because the State of Alaska's licensing regulations does not allow her to use her considerable skills to heal.

I know that things are exceedingly busy in the legislature at this time, but please consider scheduling HB 326 for a hearing ASAP.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to the Alaskans in your district.

Julianna Humphreys

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: Kerry Howard
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: HB 326
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7:01:02 AM

Dear Representative Kito: I am one of your constituents and I have benefited greatly from naturopathic care I have received in Juneau. I am seeking your support to hold a hearing on HB 326, which would allow naturopathic doctors in Alaska to practice the full suite of skills they are trained for. My visits with my naturopathic doctor are comprehensive and thorough. Unlike most MDs, my experience is that NDs spend extensive time with their patients to evaluate and treat them. My insurance company reimburses this service, which means I am getting more health care evaluation at less expense. All Alaskans appreciate and expect choice, regardless of their political affiliation. Please support this important legislation by scheduling a hearing in the L&C committee at your earliest convenience. Sincerely, Ms. Kerry Howard

From: Martin Niemi
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: HB326
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 4:39:35 AM

Rep. Kito: Please move HB326 along as quickly as possible. As a longtime patient of a Naturopathic Physician, here in Juneau, I can't say enough good things about my health care. Recently, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's. She was the one who first suspected Parkinson's. I am now under the care of four doctors, only one of whom is a Naturopath.. She is easily the best doctor I have and one of them is at the prestigious Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. This bill is necessary for Naturopathic Physicians to be able to use their full training. This is very important.

Thanks;

Martin Niemi
907-789-2064
cmniemi@gmail.com

From: Lily Pothier
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: House Bill 326
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:31:25 PM

Dear Representative Kito,

(and also, hi Sam, I hope you've been well!) I am writing to ask sincerely that you act to bring House Bill 326 into focus.

Naturopaths are an incredibly valuable asset to our state. NDs are particularly well suited to address health issues that fall outside the realm of traditional practice, which provides sufferering Alaskans with the medical expertise, validation, and treatment that they need for both physical and psychological well being.

NDs also specialize in prevention, which helps to drive down health care costs in the long run. Insurers cover NDs as primary care physicians, and the cost of a visit to a naturopath is lower than the cost of a visit to an MD and more time is spent with the patient. Broadening the scope of Naturopathy that can be practiced in Alaska is a huge win-win, saving the state money and improving our access to quality affordable health care.

Will you please schedule the hearing of HB 326 in your committee? I know you are incredibly busy and there are many bills awaiting hearing. HB 326 is so important, because modernizing the scope of naturopathic practice in Alaska will have a huge positive impact on health care and personal well being in our state!

Thank you so much for all you do on our behalf!

Sincerely,
Lily Pothier

--
Sha la la la

From: Sandy Williams
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: please schedule the hearing of HB 326 in L&C.
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 12:32:55 PM

Dear Representative Sam Kito,

I have been going to a Naturopath for 20 years in Juneau. When I first started going I had several health concerns. We first worked on cleaning up my digestive system. No drugs were used. And over the years my health stays in good order. I am now 72 and still climb all the ridges in Juneau.

Please let our Naturopaths practice to their full education and training. I wish my Doctor, yes Doctor, could perform minor office procedures, issue vitamins, minerals and non-controlled substance prescription medications.

My Doctor makes sure I do preventative things, exercise, yoga, walking, proper nutrients etc..

I feel this saves me money, saves Social Security money and this good State. Alaska naturopathic doctors have a more limited scope of practice than other health care providers in Alaska with equal or lesser training. I would like to see more naturopathic doctors throughout the State of Alaska.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB326. Please help Alaska move forward to being a better State in health care with Naturopaths.

From: Mary DeSmet
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: Scheduling of HB326
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:57:17 AM

Dear Representative Kito:

I am writing to ask you to please schedule the hearing for HB326 in L&C committee. My husband and I appreciate the options we have in Juneau to be able to get most of our health care needs met through the use of naturopathic physicians. It is so frustrating for us as residents/voters of Alaska to find that naturopaths are treated as "less than" - through their scope of practice being limited - than naturopaths in any other state! Please allow this bill to be scheduled so that the voters of Alaska, my husband and myself included, feel like we are truly being represented. We want every opportunity for health care by the providers of our choice. We always feel well served by the time and caring naturopaths provide. Our philosophy for self care is the "wellness" approach - not masking symptoms.

Thank you for listening.
Kind Regards,
Mary DeSmet & Greg Burger
8760 Dudley Street
Juneau, AK 99801
789-3933

From: Linda Kruger
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: HB 326
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 8:28:46 PM

Please schedule the hearing for HB 326. I have always been a patient of naturopathic doctors and respect the care they provide. I have found them to be well trained professionals who have far more opportunities to practice in other states. My health insurance has always covered my naturopathic treatments and I think I get far better comprehensive whole-body care from my ND than I have experienced from most MDs I have seen.

This bill is very important!!! Please do what you can to move it forward.

Thanks so much.

(Also, I appreciate that you have worked for us and I'm hoping that you decide to continue to represent us....)

Sincerely,

Linda Kruger
PO Box 35012
Juneau 99803

March 6, 2018

To the members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I urge you to support HB 326, which is the companion to SB 120. I am a licensed naturopathic doctor in the state of Alaska, but I am not currently working as a naturopath because Alaska does not allow naturopaths to prescribe non-controlled substances. I am, however, maintaining my license in hopes that one day Alaska will give naturopaths prescriptive rights, so we can provide primary care as we are trained. HB 326 directly fixes that scope of practice problem.

I earned a B.S in Human biology and then graduated from the 5-year naturopathic medical program at Bastyr University (Washington State), which is an accredited program. I passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam (NPLEX part 1 and 2). I then completed a one year primary care residency at the Bastyr Center for Naturopathic Medicine in Seattle WA. I worked as a primary care doctor in Washington.

My family and I then moved to Alaska for my husband's job four years ago, and I was excited because Alaska had a scarcity of primary care doctors. As I researched Alaska's naturopathic laws, I was shocked that I could not continue providing primary care as I was trained. I have the education and training to be a primary care doctor in Alaska if the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors is expanded, as proposed by HB 326.

The current scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors in Alaska is exceedingly restrictive and makes it extremely difficult to care for patients. While practicing in Washington, I could see a patient and diagnose them, for example, with a urinary tract infection. I would then write a prescription for an antibiotic to treat the infection. In Alaska, I can make a diagnosis for a urinary tract infection, but then I must send that person to another provider to get a prescription for antibiotics. Alaska's regulatory scheme creates unnecessary financial and time burdens for patients and providers. Albeit small, HB 326 would provide a necessary solution for this problem. In other words, this bill will help reduce health care costs in Alaska without any negative financial impacts to Alaska.

It is a well known that there is a severe shortage of primary care doctors—like naturopaths—in Alaska and that problem is projected to become worse in the years ahead. According to the Robert Gram Center Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care, Alaska will need to recruit 237 primary care doctors (a 40% increase) just to maintain current standards in the next 30 years. In a state that has an extreme shortage of doctors; naturopathic doctors can be part of the solution with this expansion of scope of practice. HB 326 will definitely decrease health care costs and increase health care access for Alaskan residents.

Currently, Alaska has an extremely broad scope of practice for nurse practitioners and physician assistants but the most restrictive scope of practice for naturopathic doctors. While I appreciate the broad scope of practice given to nurse practitioners and physician assistants, HB 326 will create parity for Naturopathic Doctors. Georgetown University is recognized as one of the leaders in Nurse Practitioner training. Their program is 19 months and has 44 credit hours (semesters) of classes and 650

hours of clinical work. The University of Washington Nurse Practitioner program is 3 years length and has 84 credit hours (quarters). The University of Washington Physician Assistant program is 2 years with 78 credit hours (quarters) plus some clinical hours. As a naturopathic doctor, I completed 330 credit hours (quarter) and 1,330 clinical hours to earn my degree. I would be happy to show you my transcript and course descriptions to show that accredited naturopathic schools exceed the requirements of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, including in advanced pharmacology and clinical management of drug therapy in addition to naturopathic remedies.

In closing, I believe the proposed amendments, especially in Sections 4 through 6, are reasonable and will provide naturopathic doctors the ability to prescribe the necessary drugs to make a difference for many Alaskans consistent with accredited naturopathic training and experience. Thank you for your time and your commitment to Alaska. I encourage you to support HB 326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Palmer" followed by "N.D." to the right.

Emily Palmer, N.D.
6709 Marguerite St
Juneau, AK
eehars@yhoo.com

CC:

Rep. Kito, Representative.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov
Senator Egan, Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov

March 6, 2018

To: House - Labor & Commerce

From: Wayne Aderhold

Ref: Statement in support of HB 326 – Naturopaths

In 1993 I first discovered the benefits of naturopathic treatment combined with acupuncture and chiropractic for a severe low back injury while living temporarily in Hawaii ... and then felt lucky when I learned I could continue treatment in Alaska. I avoided unwanted and unnecessary surgery and pain meds though both were suggested for me by other practitioners. In 2002, I traveled to Arizona, for specialized naturopathic cancer treatment that was available there due to progressive healthcare thinking enshrined in the state constitution.

Now at age 68, I realize that healthcare choice is a top priority for me and that I've consciously chosen NDs and holistic medicine for my primary care due to both effectiveness and inherent safety. I've been testifying in support of both improving ND regulations and expanding ND scope of practice in Alaska since 2004.

I am ok with being asked to contribute my fair share toward the operation and maintenance of our great State ... even if it means giving up some or all of the "senior" benefits I now receive. Changes to "perks" are often justified by economic realities. On the other hand, I am definitely not ok with being artificially limited in my access to healthcare choice and freedom when there is no logical justification and I know what is available in other states.

During the 2011-2012 sessions and related bills for NDs (HB 266 & SB 175), I took the time to track and tabulate all testimony submitted (see attachment). My summary indicates that 106 of those submitted were "in support" and the remaining 11 were either neutral or unclear. This was the last time the public was significantly engaged in the process and the results were overwhelmingly "in support".

Citizens count on their Legislature to provide laws which will make the greatest choice in healthcare available to them. Regulation by peers is the most effective guarantee of safety – in this case a select group of qualified naturopathic physicians in a format similar to the self-governance of other healthcare professions. Please pass this bill out of committee and into law and let the free marketplace of informed consumers determine what they want for themselves.

Sincerely,



Wayne Aderhold
353 Grubstake Ave.
Homer, AK 99603

total "in support" = 106

neutral/unclear = 11

SB 175 / HB 266 testimony summary from BASIS records

contact info

date	name	pt, phys, other	testimony medium	bill	pro or con	address	phone	email	comments
2/7/2012	Roxene Miller	pt	email-Egan	SB 175	pro	Douglas, AK	907-789-5105	russsrox@acsalaska.net	
2/7/2012	Anissa Berry-Frick	pt	email-Egan	"	pro	Juneau, AK	907-523-7797	Backlagoon@aol.co	problems getting Rx filled
2/6/2012	Birger Baastруп, DC	pt & chiropractor	email-Munoz	"	pro	Juneau, AK	907-463-5255	bbchiro@juno.com	uses ND's for family; refers pts to ND's
1/31/2012	Linda Kruger	pt (23yrs)	email- all	175&266	pro	Juneau, AK		lindalaska2003@gmail.com	23 yrs ND's; bp control off Rx
1/31/2012	Pamela Kennedy	pt-Dan Young (2 yr	email-all	175&266	pro	not given		pkennedy546@gmail.com	2 yrs pt with DY - happy/freedom of choice
1/30/2012	Jean Kudyba (and Kris)	pts	email-all	175&266	pro	Chugiak, AK		jeankudyba@yahoo.com	freedom of choice
1/26/2012	Joanie Waller	pt (30yrs w ND's)	email-all	both	pro	Juneau, AK		somajoanie@yahoo.com	ND as primary; allopathic as 2nd
1/18/2012	Kerry Howard	pt-Emily Kane	email-all	266	pro	zip 99801			
2/7/2012	Christine Niemi	self	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Douglas, AK			ND as primary
2/7/2012	C.W. Jasper ND	ND-AANP	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Anchorage, AK			
2/7/2012	Don Habegar	Dir, Occ Lic	testify-S L&C	175	?	Juneau, AK			
2/7/2012	Sen. McGuire	sponsor	present bill-S L&C	175	pro				
2/9/2012	Mary Miner ND	ND	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Fairbanks, AK			
2/9/2012	Madeleine Morrison	ND-AANP	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Anchorage, AK			works with MD's
2/9/2012	Ward Hurlburt	DHSS-Chief	testify-S L&C	175	?	Anchorage, AK			concerned about expansion
2/9/2012	Mary Desmett	self- ?pt	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Juneau, AK			uses MD & ND; freedom to choose
2/9/2012	C.W. Jasper ND	ND	testify-S L&C	175	pro				
2/9/2012	Mary Alice McKeen (ALJ-Fed)	self - pt (and judge	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Juneau, AK			good testimony on legal aspects
2/9/2012	Martin Niemi	self- pt	testify-S L&C	175	pro	Juneau, AK			69yrs; Phys Ed & health teacher; ND primary; MD when needed
2/9/2012	Don Habegar	Dir, Occ Lic	comment	175	n/a	Juneau, AK			not aware of dept putting out notice
2/9/2012	Andy Harrington	Dept of Law	answer legal	175	n/a	Anchorage, AK			explained 2008 licensing action & subpoenas to Rx; need to pass bill
2/9/2012	Sen. Meyer	Senate	sponsor	175	pro	Juneau, AK			
2/9/2012	Sen. Paskvan	S L&C	questioning DH	175	n/a				no notice of change; arbitrary & capricious
2/7/2012	Abby Laing	phys-ND	email	266	pro	Anchorage, AK	503-593-9971	abbylaing@gmail.com	ND-concerned about losing valuable tools
2/7/2012	Bruce Dotterrer	Assoc Dir-Inst Circ	email	266 & 175	pro	Anchorage, AK		badott@gmail.com	health professional: right to choose
2/7/2012	Calisa MS Kastning	pt	email	175&266	pro			calisas@yahoo.com	
2/7/2012	Chris Laing (and Tom)	30+ yr Alaskans	email	175&266	pro			chrislain@gmail.com	
2/3/2012	David Newirth	ND	email	266	pro			docdave@acsalaska.net	
2/6/2012	Denise Trujillo	pt	email	266	pro	Butte, Ak		deniseinalaska@gmail.com	uses ND's & MD's; full toolbox
2/7/2012	Dorothy Fry	pt?	email	266&175	pro	Homer, AK		bluzin@bearcreekwinery.com	wants choice; keep ND's hands untied
2/7/2012	Emily (Adams) Menard	? Pt	email	175 & 266	pro	Anchorage, AK		akemilydawn@gmail.com	freedom of choice
2/7/2012	Eric Goldwarg	pt	email	266&175	pro	(formerly) Anch, AK		goldwarg@gmail.com	recent pt/ good results
2/6/2012	Hope Salmon	pt	email	?	pro	?	746-4673	salmons@mtaonline.net	experience with 3 ND's, all positiv
2/7/2012	Ian Laing	pt	email	266& 175	pro			onealaskan@gmail.com	uses ND for primary care
2/3/2012	Jacqueline Vaughan	pt	email	266	pro				
2/7/2012	Jenny Carroll	?pt	email	266 & 175	pro	Homer, AK		icybay@gmail.com	ND's as primary care physicians
2/7/2012	Jennifer Richardson	?proponent	email	175 & 266	pro			jeneralmanager@gmail.com	support bills
2/7/2012	Marah Gotcsik	pediatrician (MD)	email	266 & 175	pro	Seattle, WA		marah.gotcsik@gmail.com	supports ND's; would like ins coverage so could use ND's for primary care
2/3/2012	MaryLou Auwles	pt	email	266	pro	Chugiak, AK		wmandmlaul@yahoo.com	MD's and ND's; doesn't like AMA & FDA
2/4/2012	Megan Bruce	pt	email	175&266	pro	(formerly) Juneau, AK		meganpt@gmail.com	used Juneau ND for 3 yrs
2/7/2012	Meghan Kelly	pt	email	266&175	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-223-4810	mkelly1209@gmail.com	freedom of choice
2/7/2012	Melissa Drake	? pt	email	175	pro	Eagle River, AK	907-227-9583	ak.mdrake@gmail.com	freedom of choice

2/7/2012	Mark & Theresa Robl	?pts	email	266 & 175	pro	Homer, AK		robl@acsalsa.net	
2/7/2012	Paul Dungan	?pt	email	266 & 175	pro	Homer, AK		icvbay@gmail.com	freedom of choice
2/6/2012	Shawn Hatt Cohen	pt	email	266&175	pro			rscohen@alaska.net	prefers ND's over MD's; choice
2/2/2012	Martha Lee	pt	fax	266	pro	Box 536,Hoonah, AK			treated for vit deficiency; ND worked with MD; wants full range of options
1/26/2012	CW Jasper	ND	letter	266&175	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-258-5167		ND in favor; explains history of ND's in AK & current problem
1/31/2012	Sylvia Watson	pt (AK now; WA ea	letter	266&175	pro	Juneau, AK			wants option to western medicine; ND's excel
2/17/2012	Angela Beplat	pt	email	266	pro	Soldotna,AK	907-250-7317	alinde@yahoo.com	uses both ND & MD with no conflict for 8 yrs
2/17/2012	Birgit Lenger	ND	email	266	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-561-2330	birgit_lengerd@yahoo.com	maintain practice of last 10 yrs; no expansion
2/16/2011	Ginger Scoggin	DNP, ANP	email	266	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-222-6970	drscoggin@manukaclinic.com	doctorate NP;geriatrics & adult primary care;wants fully integrated healthcare from all practioners (good testimony for 'crossing the aisles')
2/17/2012	Jennifer Fink	pt	email	266 & 175	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-301-9807	jennifink@ak.net	has switched to ND for primary care (from MD)
2/16/2011	Jenny Murray	pt	email	266	pro	Anderson, AK		jmurray@alaska.net	credits ND's with healing unsolvable probs
2/17/2012	Jocelyn Paine	pt	email	266 & 175	pro	?	907-276-8195	jocelynpaine@gci.net	using homeopathic med since '78-asthma cured
2/17/2012	Joy Steward	pt	email	266	pro	Homer, AK		jsteward@homerfund.org	pt & family depend on ND's almost 100%
2/13/2012	Julia Rothman	pt (22yrs old)	email	266	pro	?		mydancesyourdance@hotmail.com	Type 1 diabetic 11yrs; MD has had limited benefit & now getting worse; ND tx showing signs of helping; intends to continue ND care
2/16/2012	Larry Emerton	pt	email	266 & 175	pro	?		lzemerton@hotmail.com	has "regular" doc + ND; wants ND svc to continue
2/17/2011	Lori Laing	?pt	email	266	pro	?		woodpick@mtaonline.net	
2/27/2012	Michelle Wilson Nordhoff	pt	email	266	pro	Anchorage, AK		michelle@ak.net	needs B-12 shots, hormones, & ND tx for family
2/16/2012	Nadya Mitchener	pt?	email	175 & 266	pro	Anchorage, AK		nadyad@gmail.com	wants options for doctors she trusts
2/17/2012	Barb Hendricksen (?)	pt	email / fax LIO	266	pro	?		hendrick@pobox.alaska.net	consumer; questioning why a system that has worked well for 15yrs is being questioned
2/17/2012	Jennifer Young	pt? / RN / PCCN	fax LIO	266	pro	Chugiak, AK	907-688-7053		questions MD involvement in ND business
2/17/2012	Wayne Aderhold	pt	fax LIO	266	pro	Homer, AK			ND's as primary care physicans; wants progressive medicine in AK; warns of ASMA involvement
2/17/2012	Daniel Young	ND & VP AANP	fax LIO	266	pro	Eagle River, AK	907-694-5522		recited ND training & competence; acknowledged insufficiency of Statute - needs fixing; attempts to modernize law have been stonewalled; Alaskans will be hurt if bill fails
2/17/2012	Mary Lou Aulwes	pt	fax LIO	266	pro	Chugiak, AK	907-688-2483		drugs & antibiotics not compatible with her; tx with ND have been "a revelation"
2/17/2012	Jana Nalbadian	ND & Pres AANP	fax LIO	266	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-770-6700		ensure continuation of current scope of practice since '86; failure to pass will shrink already limited scope
2/17/2012	Abby Laing	ND	fax LIO	266	pro	Anchorage, AK			in support; wanted to testify during hearing; requests protection for scope of practice
2/17/2012	Torrey Smith	ND	fax LIO	266	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-248-9764		wants to continue to provide safest forms of tx possible
2/17/2012	Madeleine Morrison (?)	ND	fax LIO	266	pro		907-632-5632		practicing here 15 yrs despite limited scope; education qualifies ND's to use meds
2/17/2012	CW Jasper	ND	direct to Comm?	266	pro	Anchorage, AK			submitted list of example meds by NDs & compared to "top 50 drugs in US in 2011"
2/12/2012	Ann Fernandez	pt	email	266	pro	?		fernpan@acsalaska.net	wants freedom to choose ND's; ND made it possible to function in her job without drugs
2/8/2012	Cathy Girard	pt ?	email	175 & 266	pro	Anchorage, AK	907-243-3077	cgirard@gci.net	support
2/8/2012	Deborah Fields Cimmiyotti	pt?	email	266	pro	Eagle River, AK	907-696-4841	dfieldsdesign.com	freedom of choice
2/7/2012	Elaine & Dr. Chas Burgess	?	email	175 & 266	pro	?		eburgess216@gmail.com	freedom of choice
2/7/2012	Jessica Roder	pt	email	266 & 175	pro	Anchorage, AK		jdoverspike@gmail.com	safe practice; clear up law
2/8/2012	Jodi Oakes	pt	email	175	pro	?		jodi.oakes@gmail.com	freedom of choice
2/7/2012	John & Charlene Rodda	pts	email	175	pro	?		4roddas@mtaonline.net	18 yrs of excellent care
2/9/2012	Karen Koester	pt	email	266	pro	?		kkoester@yahoo.com	15 yrs of happy association with NDs
2/8/2012	Ken Blaylock	pts	email	266	pro	Palmer, AK	529-4853	seneiblaylock@ak.net	ND tx for family; has free military care but pays out of pocket for ND
2/10/2012	Kirsten Nielsen ND	ND	email	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK	907-452-3600	kirsten.nielsen@bastyr.edu	practicing in Fbnks; ensure continuum of care for 26 yrs +
2/8/2012	Laura Inglima	pt	email	266 & 175	pro	Homer, AK		Linglima@KPBSD.k12.ak.us	freedom of choice

2/8/2012	Linda Shattuck	pt	email	266	pro	House District 16		jazzerie@gmail.com	pt for several yrs; freedom of choice
2/8/2012	Lupita Alvarez	pt?	email	266	pro	Douglas, AK	907-364-2334	lupita_alvarez@hotmail.com	freedom of choice is a right; keep avail in AK
2/9/2012	Mary Lou Aulwes	pts	email	266	pro	Chugiak, AK		wmandmlaul@yahoo.com	Birchwood since '72; life depends on ND's due to allergies to drugs & antibiotics
2/12/2012	Monica Devine	pt?	email	266	pro	Eagle River, AK		monicadevine@gmail.com	entitled to naturopathic care; crucial to health & well-being
2/15/2012	Nancy Sawyer	pt (cancer surv)	email	266 & 175	pro	Eagle River, AK		nancy_sawyer@gci.net	grateful for ND's; NDs compliment MDs
2/7/2012	Nikki Geragotelis	pt?	email	266 & 175	pro	Homer, AK		nikkim_fry@hotmail.com	support
2/8/2012	Pamela Kennedy	pt?	email	266	pro	?		pkennedy546@gmail.com	support
2/9/2012	Valerie Adams	pts	email	266	pro	?		smada@gci.net	freedom of choice
2/13/2012	Sarah Bean	pt (28 yrs)	email	266	pro	Palmer, AK	907-746-1087	sarah@arcticorganics.com	uses ND for primary & secondary health care for 28 yrs in AK; wants more integration and continued progress
2/7/2012	Wayne Aderhold	pt	fax LIO	266	pro	Homer, AK			relies on ND for primary care for 19 yrs; right to choose standard of care received
Feb-12	Ms. Kerry Howard	pt	fax LIO	266	pro	Juneau, AK			uses and wants closely- coordinated care between allopathic and naturopathic physicians; has benefitted from a variety of modes during a "particularly difficult" situation
2/29/2012	Annette Pankowski	pts	fax LIO (Kenai)	266 & 175	pro *	Soldotna, AK	907-398-8792	*says "not" but case made if "for" - confused?	irked at CPGH for not accepting scrips for tests from ND for her and her husband; wants freedom of choice
2/29/2012	Julie Leary	pt	fax LIO ?	266 & 175	pro	Juneau, AK	907-789-7524		freedom of choice; personal & timely svc from ND; wants to avoid ER, painkillers & surgery
2/29/2012	Mary Minor	ND	fax LIO	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK			20 yrs multi-disciplinary practice & now problems getting required medicines for pts; patients are suffering the loss; not a turf issue; refers to other practitioners if outside scope of training
10/18/2011	Dave Evans/NCMIC Ins Co	ins litigations consultant	fax of email	n/a	n/a	DesMoines, IA	515-313-4500		Co has provided prof liability ins for ND's in AK since 2001; during that time 1 claim against an insured - dismissed by Plaintiff
2/28/2012	Michele Zerbetz Scott	pt	email	266	pro	Ketchikan, AK (formerly Anch)		mmzs@kpnnet.net	10 yrs with ND since no improvement of probs (some "life-threatening"); now vast improvements; moved to Ketch 5 yrs ago but still travels to Anch for ND care
2/29/2012	Danielle Gabriel	pt	fax LIO ?	266	pro	Kenai, AK	907-283-2614		wants NDs to be able to prescribe and order tests; concerned that doctors are monopolizing; urges Legis to "stand up" for pts right to choose own source of health care
2/8/2012	Rep C Munoz	Rep	testify- H L&C	266	pro	Juneau, AK			sponsor of legis - presented bill
2/8/2012	CW Jasper	ND	testify- H L&C	266	pro	Anchorage, AK			explain & answer q's
2/8/2012	Grace Davis	pt	testify- H L&C	266	pro	Tenakee Hot Springs, Ak			85 yrs - 3 NDs in her lifetime: 1 in MT, 2 in Juneau
2/17/2012	Christopher Clark	staff-Munoz		266	pro	Juneau, AK			addressed legislative intent of bill
2/17/2012	Ward Hurlburt MD	chief DHSS	testify	266	?	Anchorage, AK			spoke with CW Jasper about the bill; understands intent of bill is not to expand or change scope of ND practice, but clarify; "medicines" vs "drugs" - conflict may be due to "definitional semantics"; concerned bill may expand to allow "writing prescriptions" and increase costs; no problem with intent to clarify since NDs have practiced since 1980s
2/17/2012	Kristin Cox ND	ND	testify	266	pro	Juneau, AK			gave her background in Juneau since 1985 but left to attend ND school; has practiced safely under current Statutes & regs for 10 yrs and provided safe, effective, and affordable care to over 564 pts; issues wrt NDs surround language & definition; NDs make less money but expect that; pts trust NDs to refer to others if needed; guarantees that increase access to ND health care will decrease health care costs & free up MDs for more seriously ill pts; in response to Q from Chair: could not answer "types of drugs prescribes" but concerned with arbitrary nature of "legend" & mfrs disgression - discussed w Chair recent restrictions and example of compound for eczema & wether it should require a scrip; Rep Holmes interjected frustration & desire to clearly determine what NDs can & cannot do - protection of livelihood; Rep Miller suggested pharmacists are at the root of interpretation issue now - sudden change; Chair stated intent to involve FDA in future mtg

2/17/2012	Mary Alice McKeen (ALJ-Fed)	pt (ALJ & atty)	testify	266	pro	Juneau, AK	ALJ & atty but testifying as private citizen in support; appreciates legislators wrestling with the bill; policy decision to license NDs was made in 1986 so people could obtain care from NDs; reviewed licensing; emphasized NDs were recognized by Legis and policy decision was made - important to keep in mind while deliberating; NDs differentiate between "prescription drug" and "prescription medicine"; Statute states what "prescription drug" does not include; FDA defines "controlled substances" which is very clear; believes Divs current interpretation on prescription & NDs is invalid; noted her husband often gets requests for medical advice which points out need for other than "conventional medical doctor"; summarized that system has been working until lately; Rep Miller initiated Q&A about adequacy of bill's language; later returned to provide letter on ND malpractice records from insurer NCMIC (1 claim since 2001; dropped by plaintiff
2/17/2012	Rebecca Van De Water CNM	ANP	testify	266	pro	Juneau, AK	CNM who often refers pts to NDs as well as being a pt herself; stated hopes that this bill would make it abundantly clear what NDs can do since she relies on them to fill gaps of her own care; she will not work with things she is not trained to use
2/17/2012	Ashley May ND	ND	testify	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK	has only practiced as ND 2.5 yrs; has had a harder & harder time obtaining products he normally has been able to get
2/17/2012	Diane Cryer	pt?	testify	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK	as a pt, urged support for the bill
2/17/2012	Scott Luper ND	ND	testify	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK	has practiced in AK since 2000; gave scenario of using sodium butyric acid for ulcerative colitis from Key Pharm. & usually stops bleeding in 1 or 2 wks; recently denied by pharmacy; often works with oncologist in tx of cancer pts to mitigate effect of chemo; now more difficult to obtain IVs; urged passage & does not want to develop "a list" as medical science moves & shifts
2/17/2012	Bill Kelley MD	MD	testify	266	?	Soldotna, AK	MD practicing allopathy in primary care in AK for 20 yrs; in his community, allopathic physicians have a great deal of respect for NDs for the reasons just mentioned; suspects if MDs & NDs sat down to resolve there would be little dispute; "devil in the details", semantics; could not offer solution; concern with example that Taxol could be prescribed by NDs due to origin;
2/17/2012	Katy Sheridan MD	MD	testify	266	?	Soldotna, AK	MD in fam med for 16yrs; echoed Dr. Kelley's statements; great respect for complimentary medicine & open to pts having choice to select care best for them; noted out of scope work happens in allopathic practice also; suggested revise language to help protect pts
2/17/2012	Mary Ann Foland MD	MD-Pres ASMA	testify	266	?	Anchorage, AK	MD & Pres ASMA; concerned about the bill & health of Alaskans; potential for tremendous & irreversible impact on pt safety; not an issue of turf protection; referred to past ASMA testimony on differences in ND & MD training; & clinical experience; goal of bill seems simple but is not as it seems; alluded to Div has some details pertaining to current prescriptive practices of some NDs; her belief is bill would expand prescriptive privileges beyond legal and nebulous limits; related discussions with pharms & what might be included; helpful to get a list of meds NSs wish to prescribe so ASMA could evaluate them; MDs she's consulted say B12, VitC, saline, capsicum etc "would be just fine"; meds listed by FDA as prescription drugs would not; it has never been the intent of ASMA or AAFP to shut down practices of NDs but rather to clarify what is allowed and what is not. Enthusiastically supports having entity without a conflict of interest make a distinction between list of prescription drugs and dietary & herbal supplements & over-the-counter homeopathic supplement; says FDA is that entity; Rep Thompson inquired on # of lawsuits for NDs for miss prescriptions for 18 yrs & how many malpractice suits against MDs - Foland did not know;
2/17/2012	Jim Jordan	Exec Dir ASMA	testify	266	?	Anchorage, AK	Exec Dir, ASMA; suggested contacting ASMB for case info against physicians; unsure of reporting required of NDs; Rep Miller inquired as to who could review a list created by committee - Foland said FDA; Jordan outlined 4 basic FDA categories; anything not a food that impacts the body is considered a drug (legend, over-the-counter, homeopathic, dietary suppl); no single definitive list by FDA exists, but "orange book" is electronic list of approved drug products 32nd ed, 1298 pgs; suggested this as a pathway to take; wants consistent defs between statutes & regs;

2/29/2012	Dan Young ND	ND	testify	266	pro	Chugiak, AK	has practiced naturopathy 24 yrs & VP of AANP; explained licensing in AK and accreditation by CNME which is a member of Assoc of Spec Prof Accreditors, regulated by US Dept of Educ which also oversees MDs, DO's; NDs required to pass board exams on pharmacology & pharmacotherapeutics; non-toxic approach with emphasis on disease prevention & optimizing wellness; NDs well trained to use natural substances whether prescription or non-prescrip; Statute to allow NDs to function safely within tenets
2/29/2012	Jane Madison	pt	testify	266	pro	Soldotna, AK	"interested resident" in support of bill; doesn't support extreme positions of either side; has been dealing with a very serious endocrine issue and both MD & ND have their place - ND solved what MDs & endocrinologist couldn't; wants strict licensing stds for NDs and for them to practice 'alongside traditional med community'; suggests cost savings if NDs given same prescriptive authority as physician asnts
2/29/2012	Mary Miner ND	ND	testify	266	pro	Fairbanks, AK	grad of Bastyr; practicing Fbnks now, WA & CT before; now cut off from access to therapies previously used; traditional MDs are not familiar with ND remedies which are outside their training
2/29/2012	David Ottesen	pt	testify	266	pro	Juneau, AK	consumer & owner Rainbow Foods; fourth yr of testifying on ND bills - hoping this year something will come of it
2/29/2012	Tim Peterson MD	MD & pt	testify	266	pro	Juneau, AK	ER allopathic/doc Juneau; stated 1st 2 yrs of ND training is identical to allopathic MDs; respects ND's diagnostic skills; people who visit NDs tend to be savvy consumers & pay own fees sometimes; pts of NDs are "good consumers"; need NDs as a matter of choice; on a personal issue he chose ND over MD (fingers); some of his colleagues would disagree (with him) & MD association is conservative & reactive; previously testified against DC's prescribing but feels NDs are qualified; NDs should continue practice and are potentially a money-saving option for pts

5

total "in support" = 106

neutral/unclear = 11

From: Korie Hickel
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 326 Personal Testimony
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 4:31:20 PM

Hello,

I am writing to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 326, as it does not appear that the committee will get to that agenda item before I need to return to work at 4:30.

My husband and I are young professionals who returned to Alaska after leaving for school. We are healthy and active but have had a multitude of injuries and other health issues that have led us to many expensive and frustrating doctor visits over the last few years. I have a chronic condition that went undiagnosed for 8 years and severely impacted my quality of life. I saw 6 different doctors in Anchorage at that time, from primary care physicians to specialists, and they were unable to help me. They diagnosed me with various unrelated ailments that now seem ridiculous and prescribed a multitude of medications to manage the symptoms for the rest of my life. After hitting a low in the summer of 2016, I sought out a naturopathic doctor as a last resort. I was a supposedly healthy and active 28 year-old, and I was determined to find a better answer.

The naturopath was different from the beginning. She spent 90 minutes with me during my first appointment to hear about all of my symptoms and thus complete a comprehensive picture of my state of health. Over the course of the following months, she helped identify the root cause of my symptoms, and they all ended up being related! When I needed to see a specialist, I decided to go to an ND in Oregon. Her scope of practice was much broader. The practice was a one-stop-shop for my appointments, all of my tests, and the doctor was able to prescribe the necessary medications, which my doctor in Alaska is unable to do though she has the same training. On top of the convenience and excellent care, my visit to Portland was less expensive than one visit with each of the specialists that I had previously seen in Anchorage! Those same specialists of which one of made me and my husband wait over an hour past my appointment time to then spend 5 minutes with me in which they looked at my test results for the first time and gave me an incorrect diagnosis. I am still appalled at that treatment for which I paid \$600.

Now, with my diagnosis and personalized care, I am able to manage my condition and continue to do the activities that I love. I am taking less daily medications and have learned about natural substances that provide the same benefits with less side effects than other medicines I had been prescribed. All of this for the same price as other primary care providers in town. I have since sent all of my friends to my ND.

Due to this experience, I strongly support passage of HB 326. We need to increase access to better healthcare and decrease costs in this state. Naturopaths should be able to practice according to their level of training, which is much broader than currently allowed in Alaska. Please pass HB 326 and help out Alaska.

I would be happy to talk to any of my representatives about this further.

Respectfully,

From: [Edric Carrillo](#)
To: [Caitlyn Ellis](#)
Subject: FW: Support HB326. Written testimony
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 5:03:21 PM

From: Laura Bonner [<mailto:ljbonner@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 4:51 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>
Cc: Laura Bonner <ljbonner@acsalaska.net>
Subject: Support HB326. Written testimony

Chairman Kito and members of House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I support the proposed HB 326. I am speaking for myself and my daughter. We both see a Naturopath for our primary physician. I support expanding what he can do for us and passing this bill will allow that.

Thank you for hearing this bill,

Laura Bonner
Anchorage, Alaska

From: Marah Gotcsik
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: MD in support of HB326
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018 11:13:14 PM

Representative Kito,

I'm an allopathic pediatrician practicing in Anchorage and sites in rural Alaska for almost seven years. I live in 99508. I am in support of HB326 and strongly encourage you to support this bill as well.

Early in my medical training, I often heard disparaging remarks from my instructors about naturopathic physicians. These comments generally lumped NDs in the category of "complementary and alternative medicine," a category includes other disciplines with limited to no formal training. This led me and many of my colleagues to form bias in the setting of misinformation. During my residency at Seattle Children's Hospital, I was introduced to the program at Bastyr University (some of my co-residents even did rotations there) and learned that my preconceived notions were wrong. Since starting practice in Anchorage, I have taken time to learn more about the curriculum of accredited ND training programs and this has further solidified my opinions. I do believe that NDs have appropriate education and training to expand their scope of practice as described in HB326.

I refer patients to NDs, enjoy discussing pediatric cases with NDs that I know, and go to a ND for my primary care (I am fortunate that I do not need any prescription medications). I am highly skeptical by nature and by training and would not trust my patients or myself with a ND if I had any concerns about their training whatsoever.

I strongly believe that in medicine we provide the best care for a patient when we work together as a team. Especially as opinions toward health care in our country shift, NDs are a key part of that team. Passing this bill would allow easier integration into practices in Anchorage and around the state. HB326 also has the potential for significantly improving access to care across the state.

Please let me know what additional questions you have or clarifications you might like. As I described above, I am concerned that many allopathic providers are making assumptions and judgements without a full understanding of the issue. I am happy to address any concerns that allopathic providers have raised to you.

Thank you for your time and hard work for our state.

Please make this 30 March, Doctor's Day, be in support of all medical doctors in this state - MDs, DOs, and NDs - by supporting this bill through the House Labor and Commerce Committee.

Thank you,
Marah Gotcsik, MD

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 326 Naturopaths; Licensing – Response to Alaska Medical Association’s Opposition

Dear Chair Kito:

I am writing to encourage the House Labor and Commerce Committee to pass HB 326 out of committee with a ‘do pass’ recommendation as soon as possible so the legislature may act on it during this legislative session.

HB 326 will remove statutory restrictions that are preventing Alaskans from exercising their right to choose which medical service providers suit their individual needs and desires.

The Alaska State Medical Association is trying to persuade the legislature to continue to sanction their control over the medical services industry by playing on unwarranted fears:

- They contend: “It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to compare U.S. medical schools with those from the rest of the world that educate a large number of physicians now practicing in America.”

This is deceptive. We are all capable of comparing one medical school to another according to our own standards. The issue is that we have no need and especially have no right to impose our personal standards on anyone else.

We would not tolerate the legislature comparing schools of religious practice on our behalf. Likewise, the legislature should not dictate a standard of comparison for schools of medical practice on our behalf.

- The AMA asserts the legislature is making a “major patient-safety policy decision”.

The exact opposite is true. HB 326 simply proposes to remove existing restrictions on our ability to make our own ‘safety policy decisions’.

- The AMA points to a ‘study’ that proclaims: “Children aged 1-17 years were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with vaccine preventable disease if they received naturopathic care.”

Their inference is this is the fault of naturopaths; but it could be an indication that the AMA, which is free to say whatever they want about vaccinations, isn’t persuading parents of the virtues of vaccinations.

In the interest of fairness, the AMA should also point out that ‘studies’ indicate that people were ‘significantly’ more likely to become addicted to opium based medications while under the care of AMA sanctioned physicians – but that really isn’t the fault of the AMA.

Medical care is not about statistic and achieving state objectives. It is about very personal decisions to achieve very personal objectives. And democracy is about allowing people to make personal decisions to achieve personal objectives not about achieving state objectives.

Please pass HB 326 out of the Labor & Commerce committee.

Thank you,

Mike Prax
1015 Meadow Rue
North Pole, Alaska 99705

From: Kendra Zamzow
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov; [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Chris Birch](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)
Subject: In support of HB 326
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:37:17 PM

Dear Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee:

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 326, related to the licensing of naturopaths. This is a bill that the patients of naturopaths, including myself, support and importantly for all Alaskans, would help to reduce health care costs.

I do all that I can to maintain and improve my own health through nutrition, exercise, and other known beneficial habits and practices. At 55, I remain in very good health. I hope this is helping to keep down everyone's health care premiums! However, I do want a primary care doctor and have chosen to see a naturopath in Palmer, Dr. Megan Danz. Through her I have my annual physicals, and she is my point of contact when I have minor health issues.

I do have asthma. I believe my attempts to maintain my health are the reason I have had only one attack in the past 10 years, but that one (about 3 years ago) landed me in the ER. Unfortunately, Dr. Danz cannot prescribe asthma medication. It used to be that a person could get an asthma inhaler in the grocery store, right there with the cold medications. I haven't seen them in grocery stores in Alaska for some years now, and I know many states now require a prescription. I imagine as I age I will likely benefit from having a rescue inhaler in the house. It makes sense to me to get a prescription, if and when that becomes necessary, through the naturopath I see regularly.

Prevention is certainly less costly than emergency care. The ability to easily get a rescue inhaler would reduce the chances that I will end up in the ER again. Any time we can keep people out of the ER, we are helping to keep health care costs down. Naturopaths have more than enough training to provide this type of service.

Thank you,

Kendra Zamzow, PhD
Chickaloon, AK
907.354.3886

"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom." EO Wilson

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304 • (907) 561-2063 (fax)

February 14, 2018

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 326 – Naturopaths; Licensing

Dear Chair Kito:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA opposes HB 326 and any expansion of naturopath's scope of practice beyond that which is currently found in AS 08.45.

Naturopaths essentially wish to have the same scope of practice as Primary Care Physicians (MDs and DOs). It is a difficult if not impossible task to determine if a naturopath's education and training is comparable to that of an MD or a DO. ASMA questions that the naturopaths' education and training have comparable depth and breadth as that of an MD or DO.

It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to compare U.S. medical schools with those from the rest of the world that educate a large number of physicians now practicing in America.

The Alaska State Medical Board (SMB) is a member of a federation of all states' licensing and disciplinary boards, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). FSMB's journal, "The Journal of Medical License and Discipline," contained, in an edition (Volume 94, Number 3, 2008), an interesting article by David Alan Johnson, M.A., Vice President for Assessment Services – FSMB. The title of the article is "Prospects for a National Clearinghouse on International Medical Schools." It contains an interesting proposal that identifies a way to establish a clearinghouse that contains quality indicators for international schools.

There are about 1,800 international medical schools and currently international medical graduates (IMGs) compose 25% of the U.S. physician workforce. According to Mr. Johnson the contribution of U.S. licensed IMGs is considerable and data exist that they are more likely to practice in medically underserved areas than U.S. graduates are. The FSMB has been dealing with trying to assess qualifications of the international medical schools for

many years, reported in its journals dating to 1916, according to Johnson. He states the challenge remains the same "*how to assess the qualifications of the physicians graduated from non-U.S. medical schools despite possessing limited information at best as to the educational curriculum of these schools...*". However, he also stated that only 10 of these international schools contributed 60% of the IMGs in the U.S. from 1998 through 2002.

The approach for the clearinghouse includes data and information that serve as patent information indicators. Those indicators as put forth by Mr. Johnson are as follows:

- "Admission requirements including mandatory tests such as the MCAT;
- The number of years the medical school program has been in operation;
- School policies related to providing advance standing from students entering from related health professions;
- The degree to which distance learning is utilized in the curriculum; the number of weeks of instruction – culminating in a medical degree;
- The status of the school as it appears in other review processes involving licensure (e.g. the Medical Board of California review process), clinical clerkships (New York state's clerkship approval list) and eligibility of federal student loans (National Commission on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation);
- Aggregate United States Medical Licensing Examination performance data for students and/or graduates of the school;
- Student progression rates toward successful completion of degree requirements;
- The schools success rate in placing students in Accreditation Council for Graduating Medical Education or AOA-Approved residency programs; and
- Information on clinical clerkships such as whether these are performed outside the host country where the school is located or if an affiliation agreement exists with the hospital(s) where clerkships are being conducted."

This approach is one of developing a "proxy" methodology short of an in-depth, on-going review of each of the 10 international medical schools, which is not feasible as it obviously would not be for 1,800 such schools. This is a methodology that could be termed "the proof of the pudding is in the tasting."

ASMA does not believe that the information the Legislature has now, and is unlikely to have in the future, the objective information that would enable it to make the major patient-safety policy decision it is being asked to make in HB 326.

It is in the residency training where the physician really learns all aspects of patient care with hands-on experience in both the outpatient and inpatient (in hospital) settings. Attached is a comparison produced by the American Academy of Family Physicians that includes hours for the required residency in family medicine. AAFP compares its required 3-year residency program for a Family Physician to the 1-year optional residency program for naturopaths. As you can see, the hours, respectively, are 9,000 to 10,000 versus 535 to 1,035.

ASMA would suggest that if you need more information about Family Medicine residency programs that you contact Harold Johnston, MD, who heads Alaska's own Family Medicine program.

Parenthetically, for an IMB to be licensed in Alaska, that candidate must have successfully completed a minimum of a 3-year residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education for MDs and an American Osteopath Association (AOA) for DOs.

In February 2011 Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services released a bulletin with news that Alaska has now places near the bottom in rates of childhood immunizations, based on a national survey done by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Alaska is 49th among all states, with a rate of immunizations of 56.6% compared with the national average of 70.5%. A University of Washington study reported in 2009 in the Maternal and Child Health Journal ("Pediatrics Vaccination and Vaccine Preventable Disease Acquisition: Associations with Care by Complementary and Alternative Medicine Providers," Volume 14, Number 6, 922-930, DOI: 10.1007/s10995-009-0519-5): "*Children were significantly less likely to receive each of the four recommended vaccinations if they saw a naturopathic care.*" Furthermore it stated "*Children aged 1-17 years were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with vaccine preventable disease if they received naturopathic care.*" It would seem that if the naturopathic standard of care for children does not include recommendations for parents to have their kids vaccinated for preventative illnesses, there is a gap in their knowledge base. Are there other gaps in naturopaths' standard of care for children?

ASMA will oppose bills such as HB 326 that expand the scope of practice for naturopaths beyond what is currently allowed in AS 08.45 until:

- (1) The US and Canadian schools of naturopathy that grant doctoral degrees are accredited by the same accrediting bodies for the U.S. and Canadian medical schools: Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA);
 - (2) All candidates for admission to U.S. and Canadian schools of naturopathy are required to take the medical College Admission Test (MCAT);
 - (3) All graduates of U.S. and Canadian schools of naturopathy pass all three steps/levels of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Examination (COMLEX - USA), using the same passing criteria as the MDs or DOs, respectively;
 - (4) All naturopaths seeking licensure must successfully complete at least a three-year residency program that is accredited by the same accrediting body, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), for MDs and AOA-approved residency programs for DOs;
 - (5) All naturopaths are subject to the same standard of care criteria as MDs and DOs for licensing sanction actions and in litigation, including allegations of malpractice;
 - (6) All naturopaths are required to report to the state the outcome of each malpractice or action for which damages have been or are to be paid, whether by judgment or settlement; and
 - (7) The state reports all actions against a naturopath to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
-

Such requirements are appropriate to protect the public.

ASMA believes that patient safety and public health trump all other considerations – even workforce shortages. Additionally, ASMA feels that the Legislature in evaluating HB 326 and other issues involving scope of practice needs to adopt the judiciary's highest standard of proof – that the extension of the increased scope of practice beyond a reasonable doubt will provide for the public's safety.

ASMA urges you to oppose HB 326 and any other measure to expand the naturopath's scope of practice beyond that which currently exists in AS 08.45.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Lawrason MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Lawrason MD, President
Alaska State Medical Association

cc: House Labor and Commerce Committee Members



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



March 7, 2018

The Honorable Sam Kito
Chairman
Alaska State House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman Kito:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Alaska Osteopathic Medical Association (AKOMA) are writing in opposition to HB 326. This bill redefines the practice of “naturopathy” as a system of medical practice and greatly expands naturopaths’ scope of practice to include independently prescribing certain controlled substances, performing operative procedures and performing and ordering orifical examinations and clinical laboratory tests for diagnostic purposes. The AOA and AKOMA believe that such a large increase in scope of practice, without any additional education, training or competency demonstration requirements, could place the safety of Alaska patients at risk.

The AOA represents 137,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. AKOMA is a professional medical organization that represents over 200 DOs providing patient care in Alaska.

The AOA and AKOMA support the “team” approach to medical care because the physician-led medical model ensures that professionals with complete medical education and training are adequately involved in patient care. While we value the contributions of all health care providers to the health care delivery system, we believe that naturopaths’ education and training lacks the comprehensive and robust requirements needed to safely provide patients with the broad range of unsupervised primary care services authorized by this bill.

Osteopathic and allopathic (MD) physician education includes:

- **Four years of medical school**, which includes two years of didactic study totaling upwards of **750 lecture/practice learning hours** just within the first two years, plus two more years of clinical rotations done in community hospitals, major medical centers and doctors’ offices.

- **12,000 to 16,000 hours of supervised postgraduate medical education**, i.e., residencies, where DOs and MDs develop advanced knowledge and clinical skills relating to a wide variety of patient conditions.

Naturopathic education:

- **Varies by school**, there are seven naturopathic schools accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) in the United States.
- Traditionally **focuses on holistic and nontoxic approaches** to therapy with a strong **emphasis on disease prevention and optimizing wellness**.
- **May not include any residency training**. While opportunities for one- to two-year residencies exist, this training is still optional and standard residency curriculum, rotations or experiences do not exist.
- This bill **eliminates language requiring naturopaths to complete a four year naturopath education program and does not specific clinical training requirements** for naturopaths.

This bill:

- **Redefines “naturopathy” from a homeopathic practice to a system of health care similar to what physicians practice.**
- **Eliminates the prohibition on naturopaths prescribing any prescription drugs and allows them to prescribe** most drugs, including **contraceptive devices** and the **controlled substances testosterone and zolpidem**. The only drugs that naturopaths are not allowed to prescribe under this bill are cancer chemotherapeutic agents and some controlled substances.
- **Deletes the prohibition on the performance of surgery** by naturopaths and allows them to perform procedures using “operative, electrical or other methods” and use local anesthetics.
- Allows naturopaths to perform **“naturopathic manipulative therapy,”** and perform and order **orifical examinations and clinical laboratory tests** for diagnostic purposes.

Alaska’s current law appropriately recognizes that naturopathic education and training focuses on alternative and natural therapies.¹ Naturopaths do not complete the comprehensive medical education, training, and examination requirements that physicians complete, which prepare them to safely deliver the services described in this bill. **We urge you to protect the health and safety of Alaska patients by opposing HB 326.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Director of State Government Affairs at rrichards@osteopathic.org or (312)-202-8199.

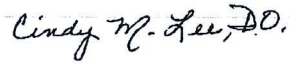
¹ AS 08.45.200 (3). Available at: <http://www.touchngo.com/lglcntr/akstats/Statutes/Title08/Chapter45/Section200.htm>.

The Honorable Sam Kito
March 7, 2018
Page 3

Sincerely,



Mark A. Baker, DO
President, AOA



Cindy Lee, DO
President, AKOMA

CC: William S. Mayo, DO, President-elect, AOA
Joseph M. Yasso, Jr., DO, Chair, Department of Governmental Affairs, AOA
Thomas L. Ely, DO, Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs, AOA
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, AOA
David Pugach, JD, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, AOA
Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs, AOA
Samyuktha Gumidyala, MPH, Affiliate Executive, AKOMA

From: Hal Smith
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: Opposition to SB326
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:03:54 AM

PO Box 869

Homer, Alaska 99603

March 9, 2018

Representative Sam Kito

Chair, House Labor and Commerce Committee

Alaska Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Kito:

I have been a practicing emergency physician in Homer, Alaska since 1982 and am writing in strong opposition to SB326, which seeks to increase the scope the practice of naturopaths.

Allopathic and osteopathic physicians spend 4 years in Medical School after a bachelor's degree then 3 or more years in residency in the specialty of their choice. This prepares us to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients with all the tools available to us, be they laboratory tests or imaging and the vast array of medications currently being used. In addition to the initial training we must keep up to date with the technological changes that occur regularly as well as the new treatments and multitude of medications available. The changes since my graduation have certainly been significant.

Naturopathic training does not prepare a practitioner to use the tools granted in SB326. So unless they are required to obtain the same amount of training as an allopathic or osteopathic physician, they should not be allowed to prescribe medications requiring a prescription nor have their procedural abilities increased.

If I may be of any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Hal Smith MD, FACEP

Medical Director Emergency Department, South Peninsula Hospital

907 299 0327

March 6, 2018

To: House - Labor & Commerce

From: Wayne Aderhold

Ref: Statement in support of HB 326 – Naturopaths

In 1993 I first discovered the benefits of naturopathic treatment combined with acupuncture and chiropractic for a severe low back injury while living temporarily in Hawaii ... and then felt lucky when I learned I could continue treatment in Alaska. I avoided unwanted and unnecessary surgery and pain meds though both were suggested for me by other practitioners. In 2002, I traveled to Arizona, for specialized naturopathic cancer treatment that was available there due to progressive healthcare thinking enshrined in the state constitution.

Now at age 68, I realize that healthcare choice is a top priority for me and that I've consciously chosen NDs and holistic medicine for my primary care due to both effectiveness and inherent safety. I've been testifying in support of both improving ND regulations and expanding ND scope of practice in Alaska since 2004.

I am ok with being asked to contribute my fair share toward the operation and maintenance of our great State ... even if it means giving up some or all of the "senior" benefits I now receive. Changes to "perks" are often justified by economic realities. On the other hand, I am definitely not ok with being artificially limited in my access to healthcare choice and freedom when there is no logical justification and I know what is available in other states.

During the 2011-2012 sessions and related bills for NDs (HB 266 & SB 175), I took the time to track and tabulate all testimony submitted (see attachment). My summary indicates that 106 of those submitted were "in support" and the remaining 11 were either neutral or unclear. This was the last time the public was significantly engaged in the process and the results were overwhelmingly "in support".

Citizens count on their Legislature to provide laws which will make the greatest choice in healthcare available to them. Regulation by peers is the most effective guarantee of safety – in this case a select group of qualified naturopathic physicians in a format similar to the self-governance of other healthcare professions. Please pass this bill out of committee and into law and let the free marketplace of informed consumers determine what they want for themselves.

Sincerely,



Wayne Aderhold
353 Grubstake Ave.
Homer, AK 99603



4100 Lake Otis Pkwy Suite 322
Anchorage, AK 99508
PH: (907) 562-1234
FX: (907) 677-2007
www.primarycareak.com
www.ushealthworks.com

February 25, 2018

Rep. Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 326 ‹ Naturopaths Licensing Letter of Opposition

Dear Rep. Kito:

I have serious concerns about HB 326 to dramatically expand the scope of practice for naturopaths. As the past president for the Alaska State Medical Association and the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians, I have opposed this issue multiple times over the past decade. None of the original concerns have been resolved.

This is not an issue of limiting competition. It is simply an issue of patient safety. Please help protect the public by opposing this expansion of scope of practice beyond the level of training and experience provided by naturopathic training. Prescribing medications and doing surgery are clearly not in the definition of naturopathy.

There is a place for complementary and integrative medicine. However, safety demands that we all practice within the scope of our training, "minor" surgery. Even in the office injections, repairs and removal of foreign bodies have potential risks and complications that require significant training and practice. All of our patients deserve to have the safest possible care for their surgical and medical needs.

It is well-known that we have a serious issue with opioids and other controlled substances. To allow naturopaths to prescribe Testosterone, hormones and Ambien simply makes no sense. These controlled medications have serious risks and side effects.

I trust that you share my concern for the health and safety of our fellow Alaskans.

Please do not pass HB 326 from your Committee.

On behalf of the practitioners at PCA.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Foland, MD

MF/ILHS/HUD.TUP

cc: Labor & Commerce Committee

From: Hal Smith
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB326
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 10:03:54 AM

PO Box 869

Homer, Alaska 99603

March 9, 2018

Representative Sam Kito

Chair, House Labor and Commerce Committee

Alaska Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

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Thank you for your time.

Hal Smith MD, FACEP

Medical Director Emergency Department, South Peninsula Hospital

907 299 0327



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Anchorage, AK 99508
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FX: (907) 677-2007
www.primarycareak.com
www.ushealthworks.com

March 7, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My first introduction to naturopathy was when I was fresh out of family practice residency and had moved to Anchorage, Alaska. I had a patient who was a type I diabetic. She was a teenager who was having an adjustment problem with her diagnosis - not uncommon at that age. Type I diabetic patients require lifelong insulin since their pancreas has stopped functioning. This patient was told that she should be able to stop her insulin if she took supplements and watched her diet. This advice was unencumbered by knowledge or reason. She ended up in the ICU in a diabetic coma. The naturopath who gave her this advice declined our invitation to visit her there.


I heard from another physician that the patient wanted to submit tissue for pathologic examination. She had been passing this tissue vaginally. He was very distraught to tell her that she had endometrial cancer. She surprisingly was pleased because she was told that this meant the treatment she was getting from her naturopath was working since she was expelling the cancer. Absolutely heartbreaking because this would be a very late sign of untreated endometrial cancer.

A physician assistant in my office was seeing a 9-year-old who had been diagnosed by an allergy specialist with formaldehyde sensitivity. This is not IgE mediated allergy and, therefore, cannot be desensitized by allergy shots. Her mother was told that the only solution was to avoid exposure. She sought a second opinion from her naturopath and was told that they would be glad to treat her with formaldehyde infusions to desensitize her. Hearing this gave me a sensation that was a blend of anger and fear for this child.

I would truly hope that these are isolated instances. I am afraid they are not. Certainly, there are competent and caring naturopaths. I am also aware of instances with allopathic medicine where patients do not do well and may be harmed.

However, a practitioner with a totally different training and experience is significantly more at risk if allowed to practice beyond a reasonable scope of practice. Please take this into consideration when once again thinking of allowing naturopaths to have medical and surgical privileges.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Foland, MD
MF/ILHS/HPC.PU



4100 Lake Otis Pkwy Suite 322
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www.primarycareak.com
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February 25, 2018

Rep. Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 326 - Naturopaths Licensing Letter of Opposition

Dear Rep. Kito:

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There is a place for complementary and integrative medicine. However, safety demands that we all practice within the scope of our training, "minor" surgery. Even in the office injections, repairs and removal of foreign bodies have potential risks and complications that require significant training and practice. All of our patients deserve to have the safest possible care for their surgical and medical needs.

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I trust that you share my concern for the health and safety of our fellow Alaskans.

Please do not pass HB 326 from your Committee.

On behalf of the practitioners at PCA.

Sincerely,


Mary Ann Foland, MD

MF/ILHS/HUD.TUP

cc: Labor & Commerce Committee

From: Sarah Roberts
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: HB 326
Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018 12:19:53 PM

Representative Sam Kito, ChairHouse Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 326 Naturopath Licensing -- Letter of Opposition

Dear Representative Kito;

My name is Sarah Roberts MD and I am a Family Physician in Homer, Alaska. As a practicing physician in a community which naturopaths offer care, I am appalled by the apparent broadening of scope of these providers as described in HB 326. This is not a turf war— this sentiment arises only out of a sincere concern for patient safety. I have hospitalized numerous patient over the years with dehydration, renal failure, hepatitis and drug toxicity that have directly resulted from non-evidence based treatments from Naturopathic providers in my community. Specific treatments by these providers are considered dangerous and carry significant risk that patients feel uninformed of at the time, only to be reassured of the natural nature of the treatment. The personal financial dangers of these medical practices hurt my patients ultimately in the end, draining their bank accounts inappropriately.

Please do not consider this bill as it impacts patient safety in authorizing Naturopaths to practice outside their scope of care in providing prescription medications that they don't have training on and surgical procedures that are dangerous to our patients.

Please contact me with further questions.

Sarah Roberts MD
South Peninsula Hospital
Homer, Alaska
907-947-9014

Sent from my iPhone

March 9, 2018

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 326 - Response to ASMA Opposition Letter re Practice of Naturopathy

Dear Committee Members,

The Alaska Association of Naturopaths ("AANP") submits this letter in response to the letter submitted by the Alaska State Medical Association ("ASMA") dated February 14, 2018 regarding HB 326 (the "Opposition Letter"). The AANP would like to address the ASMA's arguments against HB 326, defining the scope of practice for naturopaths in Alaska.

The fundamental argument put forth by the ASMA in the Opposition Letter is that the scope of practice for naturopaths should not be defined to include prescriptive privileges, unless naturopaths receive the exact same education and training as MDs and DOs. By this same reasoning, the ASMA would not support prescriptive privileges for other healthcare providers such as Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, Optometrists, and Dentists - all of which currently have prescriptive privileges in Alaska - because they do not receive the same education and training as MDs and DOs. The relevant question is not whether Naturopaths receive the exact same education and training as medical doctors. **The appropriate question is whether the education and training of naturopaths is sufficient for the scope of practice defined in HB 326.**

To this point we would reiterate that:

- An equivalent or broader scope of practice has been practiced safely by naturopaths in numerous other states for many years.
- Prescriptive privileges are currently provided to other healthcare providers in Alaska with equal or lesser pharmacology training.

In addition, the Opposition Letter presents a number of other specific problematic points which we have addressed below.

NDs are not seeking the same scope of practice as MD and DO primary care physicians: The ASMA misinterprets the implications of HB 326. While HB 326 defines a clear scope of practice for NDs, it will not grant NDs the same scope of practice as MD and DO primary care physicians. For example, HB 326 would only allow naturopaths to prescribe non-controlled substances, excluding Ambien and Testosterone.

All Naturopathic doctors practicing in Alaska have graduated from an accredited US or Canadian school. Much of the Opposition Letter focuses on a study comparing international and domestic medical schools, and then tries to apply the findings in that study to the education and training of Naturopaths. The quality of education received by MDs and DOs at international medical schools is completely irrelevant to HB 326. According to the ASMA letter there are about 1,800 international medical schools, however all naturopathic medical schools are located in the United States and Canada.

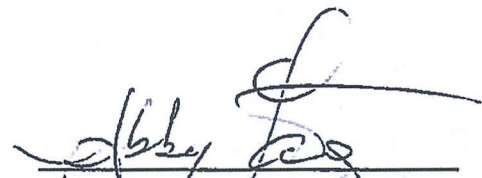
Residency programs are not required for receiving prescriptive privileges. Many Naturopaths now participate in optional one-year residency programs. However, a 3-year residency program is not required for other providers in Alaska, like Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants, to have prescriptive privileges.

Vaccines. Naturopaths in Alaska are not currently authorized to administer vaccines. If a child is due for a vaccine a Naturopath can only recommend that the parents follow up with a vaccine clinic or with another physician. Therefore, it is inappropriate to attribute Alaska's vaccine rates to Naturopaths. The standard of practice for Naturopaths is to educate parents about the CDC's recommended vaccination schedule.

Malpractice Cases. The ASMA's concerns regarding medical malpractice are unfounded. Malpractice claims and disciplinary actions against naturopaths are extremely rare, both within Alaska and nationwide. According to the National Practitioner Data Bank compilation report from 1990-2010, during that time period 254,380 medical practice claims were brought against MDs, while only 16 were brought against Naturopaths.

HB 326 will define the scope of practice for Naturopaths in Alaska in a manner that is consistent with their level of education and training. By doing so, it will provide Alaskans with greater access to primary health care providers, increase the freedom that Alaskans have to choose their preferred type of healthcare and will help reduce the cost of healthcare in Alaska. It will achieve these goals while still ensuring patient safety, as has been demonstrated in the many other states which currently provide Naturopaths with prescriptive privileges.

Sincerely,


Abby Laing, President
Alaska Association of Naturopaths

From: Angus Warren
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: HB326, SB120
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018 11:56:42 AM

Representative Kito,

I wanted to briefly write and let you know my concerns with HB326 and SB120, pertaining to the scope of practice for naturopaths.

I'm a practicing Emergency Physician in Soldotna, at Central Peninsula Hospital, where I have been practicing for more than 10 years. Our community is growing, which is exciting, and now more than ever all of us are aware of the escalating costs of medical care and want to be an active part of contributing to improving what is inarguably a broken and costly medical system.

However, the bills proposed, in totality, pass privileges to professionals that are not trained to perform these skills (primarily providing prescriptions for non naturopathic medications).

The training is vastly different:

Medical / Osteopathic school (MD or DO) extensive entrance admission exam, then term of 4 years, approx 9-10,000 hours of lecture, clinical study, lab and patient care time

Naturopathic school - (ND or NMD) - no admission exam, 4 year term, about half the time required of the above, 4100 hours according to the only naturopath accrediting organization (CNME)

Post graduate training is vastly different:

MD or DO - training to be a practicing physician essentially begins at this moment - typically 3 years, up to 7 or even 10 years for certain specialties. This is learning the nuances of practicing medicine in a rigorous, extensive program with didactics / direct patient care / case reviews and exposure to many different facets of medical practice

ND or NMD - no training required

Licensing and laws regarding practice varies widely:

MD or DO - accepting in all 50 states

ND or NMD - some states allow minor surgical procedures, some allow test ordering, some allow the use of the word "physician" NOTE: this last practice is expressly prohibited in Alaska

In general, my opinion, which is consistent with governing bodies of many individual specialties (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, etc) is that the core theory and practice of these professionals is inherently different. The training of a naturopath does not prepare these practitioners to properly and accurately diagnose or treat health and disease as accepted by the scientific community. Going upstream of the nature of how these

providers are trained and changing the scope of what they can do may cause a trimming of expenses, but is inherently **dangerous**. We owe our patients better than this. Please consider this in how you proceed.

thank you for your consideration,

Angus M Warren, MD
Central Peninsula Hospital Emergency Physicians
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

From: Paula Godfrey
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: Vote NO on HB 326
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:32:45 PM

Dear Representative Kito,

I am a board certified emergency medicine physician and I am asking you to please vote NO on HB 326.

I have reviewed and support the documentation sent forth by the Alaska State Medical Association.

I am in agreement that without a standardized entrance testing method (MCAT), equivalent number of curriculum hours and then a post graduate residency, then you cannot have a comparable training situation amongst MD/DO physicians and naturopaths. Therefore one should not be requesting comparable privileges such as expanded scope of practice, such as prescribing, surgical procedures, etc. It is a matter of patient safety and training background.

Here is a description that lays out some of the training differences:
<https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/workforce/scope/Naturopathic.pdf>

Please vote NO on HB 326.

Sincerely,
Paula Godfrey DO, FACEP
Homer, AK



ALASKA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

March 10, 2018

Senator Mia Costello
Majority Leader
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Costello,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians, a state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, regarding our stance on SB 120, regarding the licensing and practice of naturopathy.

While we do believe that Naturopaths do provide valuable services to patients, the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians (AKAFP) opposes licensure of naturopaths. Naturopathic theory and practice are not based upon the body of basic knowledge related to health, disease, and health care that have been accepted widely by the scientific community. Moreover, the scope and quality of naturopathic education do not prepare the practitioner to properly and accurately diagnose illness or provide appropriate treatment. Governmental endorsement of naturopaths through licensure will jeopardize the health and safety of patients.

The AKAFP believes that current naturopathic education and training do not adequately prepare naturopaths to safely or effectively prescribe medications, perform physicals for school or employment, or perform surgical procedures.

A naturopath should not be allowed, under any circumstances, to use the title "physician," nor should a naturopath ever be considered a "primary care physician." Public and private payers should not be compelled or mandated to pay for naturopathic services.

The AKAFP's position is that, like the training for all other providers offering health care services to patients, the training programs preparing naturopaths should be monitored constantly to assure the quality of the training provided.

Sincerely,

Sarah Roberts MD
Homer, Alaska

Amy Slagter, DO
Wasilla, AK

Robert Haight MD

Juneau, AK
Adam McMahon, MD

Alaska Academy of Family Physicians
Soldotna, Alaska
907-360-9698
academy@alaskaafp.org



ALASKA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

A. Smith MD

Allison Smith MD
Soldotna, AK

D. Awers MD

David Awers MD
Dillingham AK

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Rep. Sam Kito, Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Opposition to HB 326 – Naturopaths; Licensing

Dear Chair Kito:

The Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants is writing to express opposition to HB 326 and to ask you not to pass it from the Committee. This bill expands the scope of practice of naturopaths beyond their education and training by allowing them to prescribe prescription drugs, vaccines, hormones, medical devices, and perform medical procedures. Allowing naturopaths to practice beyond their level of education and training increases the likelihood of medical error and patient harm.

The Academy recognizes the contributions of naturopathy to the coordination of high quality patient care, but also recognizes the inherent risks incurred when medical professionals operate outside their scope of practice. As an example, one physician assistant member stated that ~~she had~~ during her care of a 20-year-old female patient she was told that the patient was advised by a naturopath to take natural estrogen supplements typically reserved for menopausal women. Such advice is contrary to the standard of care and medical knowledge as it can have negative consequences on patient health. In this case the patient was found to have fibrocystic breast tissue likely exacerbated by excessive estrogens supplementation. This is a simple, but concrete example of how HB 326 is not in the best interest of patient health.

While this may be an isolated incident, it is our position that granting naturopaths medical and surgical privileges unnecessarily increases the risk of patient harm. Naturopathy is a valuable component of holistic medical care, but asking naturopaths to practice outside of their scope, education, and training is an injustice to patients, increases the potential of patient harm, and goes against the high standards to which medical professionals are held.

We ask that you act in the best interested of patients by opposing HB 326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bryan Farthing".

Bryan Farthing, PA-C
Board President, Alaska Academy of PAs

cc: House Labor and Commerce Committee Members
Representative Geran Tarr, HB 326 Sponsor

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 326 Naturopaths; Licensing – Response to Alaska Medical Association’s Opposition

Dear Chair Kito:

I am writing to encourage the House Labor and Commerce Committee to pass HB 326 out of committee with a ‘do pass’ recommendation as soon as possible so the legislature may act on it during this legislative session.

HB 326 will remove statutory restrictions that are preventing Alaskans from exercising their right to choose which medical service providers suit their individual needs and desires.

The Alaska State Medical Association is trying to persuade the legislature to continue to sanction their control over the medical services industry by playing on unwarranted fears:

- They contend: “It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to compare U.S. medical schools with those from the rest of the world that educate a large number of physicians now practicing in America.”

This is deceptive. We are all capable of comparing one medical school to another according to our own standards. The issue is that we have no need and especially have no right to impose our personal standards on anyone else.

We would not tolerate the legislature comparing schools of religious practice on our behalf. Likewise, the legislature should not dictate a standard of comparison for schools of medical practice on our behalf.

- The AMA asserts the legislature is making a “major patient-safety policy decision”.

The exact opposite is true. HB 326 simply proposes to remove existing restrictions on our ability to make our own ‘safety policy decisions’.

- The AMA points to a ‘study’ that proclaims: “Children aged 1-17 years were significantly more likely to be diagnosed with vaccine preventable disease if they received naturopathic care.”

Their inference is this is the fault of naturopaths; but it could be an indication that the AMA, which is free to say whatever they want about vaccinations, isn’t persuading parents of the virtues of vaccinations.

In the interest of fairness, the AMA should also point out that ‘studies’ indicate that people were ‘significantly’ more likely to become addicted to opium based medications while under the care of AMA sanctioned physicians – but that really isn’t the fault of the AMA.

Medical care is not about statistic and achieving state objectives. It is about very personal decisions to achieve very personal objectives. And democracy is about allowing people to make personal decisions to achieve personal objectives not about achieving state objectives.

Please pass HB 326 out of the Labor & Commerce committee.

Thank you,

Mike Prax
1015 Meadow Rue
North Pole, Alaska 99705

From: nperez@juneauurgentcare.com
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: SB 120
Date: Friday, April 13, 2018 1:54:47 PM

Please STOP the bill expanding the services naturopath can provide.
It is too broad and goes beyond their training.
Although they can do some things better than doctors (prescribing and procedures are not), this bill is too broad in scope without repercussion if they overreach.

Sincerely
N Perez