

Aaron Pettigrew
The Health and Human Services Committee
2-24-2024

February 24, 2024

Dear Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Aaron Pettigrew and I thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimonial depicting how Naturopath Doctors helped me go from being severely ill to being healthy with hope.

In March 2017, my work building sustained water damage from a large snowstorm. The remediation was done incorrectly, leading to the growth of black mold throughout the entire building.

Over the next four years, five employees, including myself, became increasingly sick. Before being correctly diagnosed by a Naturopath Doctor in 2021, our CEO saw 33 doctors and specialists throughout the United States, requiring him to miss work, have surgeries and procedures he didn't need and spend money his family didn't have. Each of these visits led him down a rabbit hole of misdiagnoses, none of which resolved his serious illness, as he progressively became more and more ill.

Having exhausted every avenue traditional medicine offered, he opted for a different path toward Naturopathic Doctors. Within weeks, the thorough testing conducted by these doctor's lead to the discovery of mold in his urine—and a diagnosis of Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS). One of the first steps in the CIRS recovery protocol is to determine from where the source of mold/toxin exposure is coming. As it turned out, the source was traced to our work building, where tests revealed high levels of mold toxins and actino bacteria.

During this time, I had many of the same symptoms, including daily severe migraines, short-term memory loss, chronic fatigue, nausea, muscle cramps, body aches, along with numerous others. However, I was reluctant to see another doctor, as I, too, had numerous negative experiences, specifically related to digestion and gut issues where the prescribed medications actually exasperated many of the symptoms I listed above and a solution was never found. I was also tired of spending money on medical expenses that didn't result in my feeling better. However, as was the case with our CEO, I was becoming progressively more ill and opted, to set up an appointment with the same Naturopath Doctor's clinic.

My first appointment with Roots and Branches, located in Boulder, was a 3-hour consultation to discuss my current symptoms and to do a thorough evaluation of my medical history. One of the first steps Dr. Dorninger took was to address the GERD I struggled with for 15 years and had been told by previous doctors that I would have to take the prescribed Dexilant medication for life. Dr. Dorninger established a treatment plan that allowed me to stop taking the Dexilant and eliminated my acid reflux. I will admit I was originally a skeptic and didn't believe he would be able to help me, as previous doctors have said I would always be on Dexilant. I've now been off Dexilant for over a year and can eat acidic food with no acid reflux. This initial step played a huge role in allowing me to take Welchol/Cholestyramine, which binds to the toxins in my system, and is a critical step in the treatment process.

After our initial consultation, I was scheduled for a variety of lab tests. This testing process was more thorough than anything I had previously experienced and included an extensive panel of blood tests and brain and heart scans. Upon receiving my lab results, I again met

with Dr. Dorninger to discuss what was found. During the 2-hour meeting, Dr. Dorninger went through each line of my lab results and explained in detail why I was feeling the way I was feeling. That day I was diagnosed with Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) and identified that I had sustained brain atrophy from the exposure of toxins.

Leaving this meeting was initially overwhelming, though I felt hopeful that there was a solid treatment plan in place. The first steps were to change my diet (eliminating any inflammatory foods) address numerous nutrient deficiencies caused by the illness, begin taking small doses of Welchol to see how my body would react, and investigate what it will take to get me in a clean environment. Dr. Dorninger referred me to a nutritionist and provided educational material for both me and my wife to learn more about the full treatment protocol.

The Welchol was initially tough on me, however, my body adjusted as we slowly ramped up to the proper dosage. Dr. Dorninger and his staff at Roots and Branches were very knowledgeable and supportive as I worked my way through this step and seemed to fully understand the effect of this medicine. This was very important to me, as I mentioned previously, I have had past experiences with doctors who didn't understand the effects of the medicine they prescribed, which consequently created more issues.

Shortly after my body adjusted to the Welchol, my prescription was upgraded to Cholestyramine, which is a more efficient medication to eliminate toxins. Once I was in a clean environment, I started a Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) nasal spray to address the brain atrophy created by CIRS. After taking low dosages for two weeks, I was required to take more lab tests to ensure the nasal spray did not spike my pancreatic enzymes. I was admittedly and pleasantly surprised that this team of doctors were being so proactive to ensure there were no negative effects in my bloodwork.

Upon receiving the results, I was given the green light to ramp up my VIP dosage to the recommended level. Since my initial meeting with Dr. Dorninger, I have stayed in close contact with the clinic, followed the treatment protocol and have recovered from over 30+ symptoms, including a nearly full restoration of my brain atrophy, as was revealed in my most recent brain scan. I have gone back to the clinic multiple times for additional follow-up appointments and to ensure I am staying on track. Although this is a forever illness, and I will always have to be cautious of mold and toxin exposure, my health has been restored to a level I did not think was possible. I have gone from feeling helpless, suicidal and defeated, to having quality of life again.

I am sharing this testimonial as my experience with Naturopath Doctors saved my life. Without their troubleshooting of my health, taking time to look outside the traditional box of illnesses, and the proper use of medications and treatment protocols, this letter would not exist. My family would not have their husband, father, son and brother. I will forever be grateful to them.

Thank you for hearing my story and experience. I hope this helps in understanding the need of Naturopath Doctors in being able to prescribe medications directly to their patients.

Sincerely,

Aaron Pettigrew



February 16, 2024

Representative Lindsey Daugherty, Chair
House Health & Human Services Committee
Colorado General Assembly

RE: Support for CO HB24-1171 Naturopathic Doctor Formulary

Dear Representative Daugherty and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) to recommend that the House Health & Human Services Committee advance Colorado HB24-1171, a bill to modernize Colorado's Naturopathic Doctor formulary.

The CNME is the only U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency for doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine (ND programs). Graduation from a CNME-accredited ND program qualifies an individual to take the NPLEX licensing exam and to become a licensed naturopathic physician in the Canadian provinces and U.S. states and where naturopathic medicine is a regulated medical profession, including Colorado.

The CNME's rigorous accreditation process promotes high-quality naturopathic medical education and training with the goal of ensuring safe and effective practice. The following are elements of a CNME-accredited ND program relevant to the committee's consideration of this proposed legislation:

- NDs eligible for licensure in Colorado complete a four-year (4,100+ hour), full-time, primarily residential, doctoral degree program that comprises biomedical and clinical science coursework similar to what is found in MD programs, including substantial training relating to pharmacology and pharmacognosy.
- In addition to courses on pharmacology and pharmacognosy, the ND curriculum incorporates extensive training regarding various organ systems and how to effectively care for a wide range of patient populations using both natural approaches and standard medications.
- In the third and fourth years of an ND program, student interns are further trained on pharmaceutical protocols, since a number of the patients they treat are also taking conventional medications.

Other states have already modernized and expanded the ND formulary based on their review of the CNME's naturopathic medical education standards and the curricula of accredited ND programs. Thus, if passed, HB24-1171 will serve the residents of Colorado by enabling licensed NDs to utilize the full extent of their education and training to safely and effectively care for their patients.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding CNME's accreditation standards and processes. Thank you for considering the Council's input on and support of HB24-1171

Sincerely,

Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD
Executive Director

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

P.O. Box 178, Great Barrington, MA 01230 | 413.528.8877 | 413.528.8880 FAX



February 27, 2024

Dear Representative Daughtery, Chair, and Representative Young, Vice Chair,

On behalf of the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC) we express strong support for expanding the Naturopathic Formulary in Colorado to reflect the full extent of a Naturopathic Medical Education, as outlined in HB24-1171 and L-001 and L-002 amendments. As the association representing accredited naturopathic medical colleges, AANMC is deeply involved in the education of future naturopathic doctors and is confident in the comprehensive training and competency of naturopathic medical graduates in these areas.

While we appreciate the concerns raised regarding the expansion of scope of practice for NDs, we respectfully disagree with the notion that such expansion would be unwise or unsafe. Here are some points to counter concerns raised:

1. Inappropriate expansion of scope of practice: NDs are trained in 4100 hours of naturopathic medical education, including hundreds of hours in comprehensive courses like pharmacology, IV therapy, and patient safety. The authority proposed in HB24-1171 and L-001 and L-002 amendments aligns with the training and competency of NDs and is consistent with scope of practice allowed in other jurisdictions.
2. Naturopathic education is not equivalent to medical education: While it is true that naturopathic medical education differs from allopathic medical school, NDs receive rigorous foundational training in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, IV therapy, emergency medicine and other relevant areas necessary to provide this service safely. This training is more extensive than some professions who currently retain the ability to provide the scope as outlined in HB24-1171 and L-001 and L-002 amendments.

Naturopathic graduates must demonstrate competency as outlined in [AANMC Core Competencies of a Graduating Naturopathic Student](#) as well as passage of [NPLEX](#) prior to regulated practice. This is in addition to a minimum of 1200 supervised hours of clinical instruction which reinforces didactic biomedical education. The courses and training provided by accredited naturopathic medical colleges demonstrate the depth and breadth of education in these critical areas, ensuring NDs are well-prepared to safely prescribe, administer and monitor medications.

3. Flawed process: Review, consensus, and approval are not flawed processes. In fact, they are well established best practices, just as review, consensus and approval are standard processes in accreditation of ND and other medical education programs. Evaluating changes to the naturopathic

formulary should involve consultation with the advisory committee, as outlined in the proposed amendment. However, the lack of consultation does not negate the need for updating the formulary to reflect naturopathic medical education and practice. The proposed expansion aligns with the evolving role of NDs in healthcare and addresses the needs of patients seeking naturopathic care.

In conclusion, the accredited education and training of naturopathic medical students encompass a comprehensive understanding of prescription medications, including the use of IV and IM therapies, ensuring ND competence and proficiency in administering these treatments safely and effectively. Therefore, I urge you to support the expansion of the Colorado Naturopathic Formulary, recognizing the training and expertise of NDs in this area, and expanding healthcare access in Colorado.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I am available to provide any additional information or clarification you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn Yanez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "JoAnn" and last name "Yanez" clearly distinguishable.

JoAnn Yanez, ND, MPH, CAE

Executive Director Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges



February 16, 2024

Representative Lindsey Daughtery, Chair
House Health and Social Services Committee
Colorado General Assembly

RE: Support for CO HB24-1171 Naturopathic Doctor Formulary

Dear Senator Daughtery and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the national professional association representing over 8000 Licensed Naturopathic Physicians throughout 26 US jurisdictions, we strongly encourage the House Health and Social Services Committee to advance HB24-1171 and the L-001 and L-002 amendments to modernize Colorado's Naturopathic Doctor formulary.

There have been opposition statements that are not based in either fact or reality. Allow me to provide you and members of the Committee the facts regarding the education, training, and safety of Colorado Naturopathic Doctors (NDs).

- NDs are educated and trained as primary care physicians to diagnose and treat illness. They are graduates of four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral level programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). They complete 4100 hours in basic and clinical sciences, including hundreds of hours of training relating to pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics. This is, in fact, extremely similar to the training and education of medical doctors, with the exception of residencies.
- Prescriptive rights align with naturopathic medical education and training. ND schools must educate students to practice in every licensed state, including the multiple states that allow the broadest prescribing privileges that includes everything needed in a primary care setting, including DEA Schedules II - V.
- Thirteen states give naturopathic doctors prescribing rights, and 9 of those include the ability to prescribe varying levels of controlled substances per the DEA's own data. Five states require a collaborative agreement - which is different from requiring supervision - and many are temporary. Professions that complete 4 year clinical doctorates with in residence clinical internships do not typically have collaborating agreements.
- Naturopathic Medicine curriculum includes the following courses which cover pharmaceutical prescribing:

- Medical Pharmacology
 - Psychopathology
 - Approaches to Addiction
 - Clinical Pharmacy 1-5 which covers various organ systems, special populations, and all major disease conditions such as heart failure, depression, emphysema, etc.
 - NDs who hold a DEA registration are further required to do the same 8 hours of DEA-required training modules as mandated in the recently passed MATE Act.
- The naturopathic profession is also deeply committed to ensuring competencies and promoting ongoing continuing education. HB24-1171 includes the requirement to pass not only the nationally recognized NPLEX exam, which assesses knowledge of prescription drugs to ensure that entry level NDs can safely treat patients utilizing prescriptive authority, but also the Elective Pharmacology Examination, which covers most drug categories and focuses on the deeper knowledge of what an ND needs to know about a drug to actually prescribe it (or to take a patient off the drug).

The modernization of Colorado NDs formulary aligns with neighboring Arizona, as well as California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont and Washington. NDs licensed in Arizona can legally prescribe Schedules III through V, plus morphine. In New Mexico, NDs may prescribe all controlled substances in Schedules III through V except for benzodiazepines, opiates, or opiate derivatives.

A recent comparative review of medical programs published in the Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians Sunrise Review Report to the Washington State Department of Health shows that NDs undergo extensive pharmacological training which surpasses the requirements of many other healthcare professionals with prescribing rights in Colorado:

- Bastyr University offers a 4-year Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (ND) program totaling 300 credit hours – 13.5 of which are specifically related to pharmacology.¹
- As a comparison, the University of Washington School of Medicine offers a 4-year Medical Doctor (MD) program totaling 288 credit hours.²
- Accredited colleges of podiatric medicine offer a 4-year Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) program totaling 173.5 credit hours – 8 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.³
- Pacific University in Oregon offers a 4-year Doctor of Optometry (OD) program totaling 128 credit hours – 5 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.⁴

1

<https://bastyr.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/academic-catalog/school-of-naturopathic-medicine/graduateprograms/doctor-of-naturopathic-medicine/>

2

[https://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/program/S/school_medicine.html#:~:text=Medical%20School%20Curriculum%20\(For%20students%20entering%202022%20or%20after\),three%20phases%2C%20totaling%20288%20credits.&text=The%20first%2018%20months%20of%20the%20medical%2Dstudent%20curriculum%20start,two%2Dweek%20clinical%20immersion%20course.](https://www.washington.edu/students/gencat/program/S/school_medicine.html#:~:text=Medical%20School%20Curriculum%20(For%20students%20entering%202022%20or%20after),three%20phases%2C%20totaling%20288%20credits.&text=The%20first%2018%20months%20of%20the%20medical%2Dstudent%20curriculum%20start,two%2Dweek%20clinical%20immersion%20course.)

³ <https://www.samuelmerritt.edu/catalog/curriculum-overviews#Podiatric%20Medicine>

⁴ <https://www.pacificu.edu/optometry-od/curriculum>

- The University of Washington School of Dentistry offers a 4-year DDS program with 1 course that appears to be specifically related to pharmacology.⁵
- The University of Washington School of Nursing offers a 3-year Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP) program totaling 93 credit hours – 5 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.⁶
- The University of Washington Physician Assistant (PA) program offers a 2-year program totaling 162 credit hours – 6 of which appear to be specifically related to pharmacology.⁷

Additionally, NDs are educated and trained specifically on the mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions of pharmaceuticals. This is indispensable for the responsible use of IV and intramuscular (IM) therapies. By understanding pharmacological principles, naturopathic practitioners can make informed decisions, minimize risks, and maximize therapeutic benefits for their patients. Naturopathic Doctors are also one of the only provider types uniquely trained in not only recognizing drug-drug interactions, but also drug-herb, and drug-nutrient interactions. With most of the population reporting independent use of dietary supplements in addition to being on pharmaceuticals, this is an increasingly important skill.

It is also an established fact that NDs are proven to be safe prescribers. Through 2023, 11 out of 26 regulated jurisdictions throughout the US that provide NDs broad prescriptive authority, only three have taken disciplinary action against an NDs for prescribing decisions, of which the actions involved opioid management - a challenging area for all licensed primary care providers, and one which is outside the scope of HB24-1171.

AANP wholeheartedly supports passage of HB24-1171 and the L-001 and L-002 amendments which will better serve Coloradans by allowing Colorado Naturopathic Doctors the tools to effectively and safely treat their patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please call me at 202-849-6306 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Laura Culberson Farr
Executive Director

⁵ <https://dental.washington.edu/course-catalog/view-courses-year/>

⁶ <https://students.nursing.uw.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DNP-FNP-2022-Curriculum-Grid.pdf>

⁷ <https://familymedicine.uw.edu/medex/pa-program/curriculum/didactic-year/>



**Letter of Support for
HB24-1171
to Modernize the Formulary
of Naturopathic Doctors in Colorado**

Federation of
Naturopathic Medicine
Regulatory Authorities

February 27, 2024

Representative Lindsey Daughtery, Chair
House Health and Social Services Committee
Colorado General Assembly

Dear Senator Daughtery and Committee Members,

The Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) supports modernized regulation of naturopathic medicine in Colorado. Reasonable regulation is integral to the safe practice of naturopathic medicine and protection of the public.

The FNMRA's mission is to protect the public by connecting regulatory authorities and promoting standards of excellence in the regulation of naturopathic medicine. The Federation supports new and existing regulatory organizations in fulfilling their statutory obligations to regulate the profession in the interest of public protection. The FNMRA envisions a coordinated regulatory system for naturopathic medicine throughout the United States.

The FNMRA appreciates this opportunity to illustrate a verifiable need for modernizing the formulary for qualified naturopathic doctors (NDs) in Colorado.

Verifiable Need for Modernizing the ND Formulary

• **HB24-1171 addresses Colorado's statewide shortage of primary care providers**

Both the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as well as the Federal Health Resources and Health Services Administration have identified multiple areas in Colorado as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).^{1,2}

Although Colorado currently licenses NDs as primary care providers, NDs are not allowed to practice as trained with regards to broad, independent prescribing rights. This fact severely limits an appropriately trained ND from providing high-quality primary care to the people of Colorado.

¹ Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, health professional shortage area maps and data.
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/prevention-and-wellness/health-access/health-workforce-planning-and-assessment/health-professional>

² <https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/data-research/primary-care-state-projections2013-2025.pdf>

The Pew Health Commission Taskforce on Health Care Workforce Regulation has called for jurisdictions to allow all professionals to provide services to the full extent of their current knowledge, training, experience, and skills.^{3,4}

Further, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has reported on several occasions regarding the complexity of scope of practice issues across healthcare disciplines and urges regulators to allow for innovation and inclusiveness of all healthcare practitioner types in meeting patient needs.^{4,5,6} The IOM encourages the use of interdisciplinary teams to optimize patient care.^{4,5,6}

Current Formulary & the Effect of Requested Changes on Public Health and Safety

- **A modernized ND formulary would improve public health and safety**

The current formulary prevents NDs from practicing as trained, effectively limiting access to qualified primary care providers. This delay in vital primary care delivery is contrary to the public health and safety goals as mandated by the state of Colorado.

Limiting access to independent primary care providers causes a significant delay in obtaining timely health and wellness services, resulting in barriers that are directly linked to negative health outcomes. Ensuring that Colorado residents have access to comprehensive, quality primary care services is imperative not only for their physical and mental health, but it improves access to preventive measures such as managing disease, which reduces unnecessary disability and premature death while improving overall quality of life.⁷

In short, limiting the independent prescribing rights of NDs in Colorado only widens healthcare inequity and disparity.

Formal Education, Training, and Accreditation Supports Modernizing ND Formulary

- **Formal Education & Training Supports Independent Prescribing Rights for NDs**

NDs who have graduated from a Council on Naturopathic Medical Education-accredited (CNME) doctoral training program in naturopathic medicine have been trained to be primary care providers. The CNME provides that:

The Council's in-depth accreditation process promotes high-quality naturopathic education and training, and safe and effective practice. Our educational standards provide the basis for licensing/regulating naturopathic doctors in the U.S. and Canada. CNME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine.

CNME does not accredit online or distance education programs.⁸

³ *Reforming Health Care Workforce Regulation: Policy Considerations for the 21 st Century*, Report of the Pew Health Professions Commission's Taskforce on Health Care Workforce Regulation, December 1995, ix.

⁴ <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/assessing-scope-of-practice-in-health-care-delivery.pdf>

⁵ *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21 st Century*, The Institute of Medicine, National Academy Press, 2001.

⁶ *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality*, The Institute of Medicine, Committee on Health Professions Education Summit, National Academies Press, 2003.

⁷ Starfield, Barbara et al. "Contribution of primary care to health systems and health." *The Milbank quarterly* 83,3 (2005): 457-502. doi:10.1111/j.1468-0009.2005.00409.x; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2690145/>

⁸ <https://cnme.org/>

NDs are required to pass competency-based national naturopathic licensing examinations to demonstrate that they are competent to safely and effectively use naturopathic medicine to diagnose and treat disease while optimizing overall health. The formal education and clinical training prepare NDs to be independent prescribers, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails.

Proposed Regulatory Mechanism Supporting Independent ND Prescribing Rights

- **Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) Part II - Elective Pharmacology Examination can be adopted to establish prescribing competency**

The NPLEX has developed four Part II – Clinical Elective Examinations (Acupuncture, Minor Surgery, Pharmacology, Parenteral Medicine).⁹ The Elective Pharmacology Examination is composed of 75 stand-alone items. This exam has been adopted by several jurisdictions to establish prescribing competency, allowing qualified NDs to practice as trained with independent and broad prescribing rights. FNMRA interprets “broad prescribing rights” to mean access to all major categories of prescription drugs required for primary care.

Licensed NDs Are Safe Primary Care Providers

- **Licensed NDs have fewer disciplinary actions than MDs/DOs**

NDs have been practicing as primary care providers safely for decades in other jurisdictions. This can be objectively demonstrated by the fact that NDs have fewer disciplinary actions taken against them compared to MDs and DOs (see addendum A).

- **Minimal disciplinary actions occur even when NDs have broad prescribing rights**

Colorado would benefit from modernizing the ND formulary because it would effectively improve access to qualified primary care providers. An important aspect of primary care is the ability to prescribe drugs at the time of care so that the patient does not need to delay treatment by being forced to seek care with another provider. Primary care providers need broad prescribing authority in order to provide effective treatment, improve access to care, and ensure patient safety.

NDs have proven themselves to be safe prescribers. Currently, 11 of the 26 regulated jurisdictions allow NDs broad prescriptive authority. Disciplinary action was only taken against NDs in only three of the regulated jurisdictions from 2010 to 2021 and, the vast majority of those actions involved opioid management, a challenging area for all licensed primary care providers. See table on the next page.

⁹ <https://www.nabne.org/exam-overview/>

Disciplinary Actions Related to Naturopathic Doctor Prescribing

Disciplinary Actions Related to Prescribing from 2010 through 2021*				
Jurisdiction	Average Disciplinary Actions Per Year	Disciplinary Actions	Number of Years since 2010 with Broad Prescribing Rights	Estimated Number of Licensees
Jurisdictions with Broad Prescribing Rights EXCLUDING Opioids				
Hawaii	0.0	0	11	150
Idaho	0.0	0	1.5	27
New Hampshire	0.0	0	11	60
New Mexico	0.0	0	2.5	15
Utah	0.0	0	11	60
Jurisdictions with Broad Prescribing Rights INCLUDING Opioids				
California	0.0	0	11	1270
Montana	0.0	0	11	105
Vermont	0.0	0	11	350
Oregon	1.1	12	11	1200
Arizona	1.6	18	11	1450
Washington	2.9	32	11	1400
TOTAL		62		6087
* Or since year of licensure if established after 2010.				
FNMRA interprets broad prescribing rights to mean access to all major categories of prescription drugs required for primary care.				

All categories of disciplinary actions can be seen in Addendum B.

Accountability & Liability Issues Related to Formulary Changes

- **Regulation provides consumer protection and accountability**

Colorado has an established regulatory structure that allows consumer protection and accountability of licensed NDs. Modernizing Colorado NDs independent prescribing authority will help educate the public on the difference between qualified naturopathic doctors and lay naturopaths.

Naturopathic doctors have been regulated for decades in many states for the purpose of public protection. This protection is provided in part by the use of proper title (Naturopathic Doctor (ND), Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, Naturopathic Medical Doctor (NMD), by excluding unqualified persons from practicing naturopathic medicine, and by creating a structure through which the public can report complaints where both licensees and lay practitioners can be investigated.

In Conclusion

Supporting CO HB24-1171 will allow:

- Naturopathic doctors to practice as trained;
- Ensure that Colorado residents have access to comprehensive, quality primary care services; and
- Improve the primary care provider shortage in Colorado.

The current naturopathic medicine regulatory structure in Colorado will allow enforcement of the state's rules by monitoring licensee activity and implementing disciplinary actions.

As a member of this committee, we know you are a champion of public safety. Your support of modernizing naturopathic medical regulation will effectively increase the number of safe primary care prescribers by improving access and efficient delivery of healthcare.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our comments and hope this information, and any future dialogue between the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities and the Colorado House Health and Social Services Committee, will lead to the refinement of regulations that promote the safe practice of naturopathic medicine.

If you have any questions, please call me at 503-244-7189 or email me at ShannonBraden@fnmra.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Braden ND', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shannon Braden, ND
Administrator In-Charge, FNMRA

Addendum A

Number of Disciplinary Actions taken in Oregon against NDs, MDs, and DOs from 2013-2019

Year	Profession	# of Licensees	# of Disciplinary Actions	%
2019	MD	15,927	89	0.559
	DO	1,666	11	0.66
	ND	1,086	1	0.092
2018	MD	11,730	88	0.75
	DO	984	8	0.813
	ND	1,054	10	0.949
2017	MD	15,099	92	0.609
	DO	1,428	21	1.471
	ND	1,030	4	0.388
2016	MD	16,266	101	0.621
	DO	1,537	11	0.716
	ND	1,091	6	0.549
2015	MD	16,266	102	0.627
	DO	1,456	15	1.03
	ND	1,010	5	0.495
2014	MD	15,288	79	0.517
	DO	1,295	6	0.463
	ND	985	3	0.305
2013	MD	14,249	82	0.575
	DO	1,168	11	0.942
	ND	936	0	0
TOTALS	MD	88,559	633	
	DO	9,535	83	
	ND	7,192	29	
AVERAGES	MD	76,346	563	0.737
	DO	8,533	12	0.141
	ND	6,390	4	0.063

REFERENCES: <http://www.oregon.gov/omb/board/Pages/Board-Actions.aspx>
<http://www.oregon.gov/OMB/board/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>
<https://www.oregon.gov/obnm/Pages/Discipline.aspx>
 ND #s provided by email - OR ND Board
https://store.aamc.org/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/305/
<https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/publications/2018census.pdf>

**Disciplinary Actions Taken by States from 2010 to July 2021
(6,000 estimated licensees)**

Physician Acts Related to the Administration of Naturopathic Medical Practice

State	Practicing without a license	Providing false information to obtain or maintain a license (e.g. failure to disclose information on renewal)	Using false or misleading advertising, or misrepresenting credentials	Engaging in discriminatory behavior regarding which patients are seen or how they are treated	Failing to obtain appropriate patient consent to examine or treat	Failing to follow appropriate charting procedures and/or to maintain record-keeping standards
Alaska						
Arizona	1		1			3
California						
Colorado	1					
Connecticut						
Dist. of Columbia						
Hawaii			1			
Idaho						
Kansas						
Maine						
Maryland	2					
Minnesota						
Montana						
New Hampshire						
New Mexico						
North Dakota						
Oregon		4				3
Puerto Rico						
Rhode Island						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virgin Islands						
Washington	1	1	3	0	0	1
TOTAL	5	5	5	0	0	7

**Disciplinary Actions Taken by States from 2010 to July 2021
(6,000 estimated licensees)**

Physician Acts Related to the Administration of Naturopathic Medical Practice

State	Engaging in fraudulent insurance/billing procedures and/or financially exploiting patients	Breaching patient confidentiality	Reciprocal action	Failing to report disciplinary action in another jurisdiction	Failing to meet CE requirements
Alaska					
Arizona			1	1	5
California					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Dist. of Columbia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Kansas					1
Maine					
Maryland					
Minnesota					
Montana					
New Hampshire					
New Mexico					
North Dakota					
Oregon	1			1	
Puerto Rico					
Rhode Island					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virgin Islands					
Washington	4		3	1	
TOTAL	5	0	4	3	6

**Disciplinary Actions Taken by States from 2010 to July 2021
(6,000 estimated licensees)
Physician Acts that Directly Harm Patients Physically or Emotionally**

State	PHYSICIAN ACTS THAT (DIRECTLY) HARM PATIENTS PHYSICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY								
	Providing substandard patient care (e.g., misdiagnosing, failing to use standard care protocols)	Performing an inappropriate procedure that is not in the jurisdiction's scope of practice	Failing to report abuse	Neglecting or abandoning the patient	Inappropriately prescribing drugs (opioids and other legend drugs)	Providing substandard care in the prescription of Cannabis	Engaging in sexual contact with a patient	Violating appropriate doctor-patient boundaries	Exhibiting physical impairment (e.g., alcohol or substance abuse, mental/emotional impairment)
Alaska									
Arizona	8	2			20	14	1	1	10
California	1								
Colorado		1							
Connecticut									
Dist. of Columbia									
Hawaii	1								
Idaho									
Kansas									
Maryland									
Minnesota									
Montana									
New Hampshire									
New Mexico									
North Dakota									
Oregon	2		1	2	16	2	2	6	2
Puerto Rico									
Rhode Island									
Utah	1								
Vermont									
Virgin Islands									
Washington	10			1	33	10*	4	2	2
TOTAL	23	3	1	3	69	16	7	9	14

*as of 2012 Cannabis is legal for recreational use in the State of WA

**Disciplinary Actions Taken by States from 2010 to July 2021
(6,000 estimated licensees)
Physician Acts that Potentially (Indirectly) Harm Patients**

State	Exhibiting rude or disruptive behavior in the clinic (verbally abusing and/or sexually harassing patients or staff)	Receiving a criminal conviction	Failing to comply with Regulatory Authority Order	UNKNOWN (records could not be obtained for analysis)
Alaska				1
Arizona		2		2
California				
Colorado				1
Connecticut				
Dist. of Columbia				3
Hawaii				
Idaho				
Kansas				1
Maine				
Maryland				
Minnesota				
Montana				
New Hampshire				
New Mexico				
North Dakota				
Oregon		1	6	
Puerto Rico				
Rhode Island				
Utah		1		
Vermont				1
Virgin Islands				
Washington	1		1	1
TOTAL	1	4	7	10

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of HB 1171, L001 & L002, The naturopathy formulary Act. Naturopathic Doctors should absolutely have prescriptive authority in Colorado. I offer my support without any hesitation.

I currently am a Family Nurse Practitioner in Gunnison and have practiced family medicine for 8 years. Prior to that I was a Registered Nurse in our community for 15 years. I have know Roanne Houck ND for over 20 years both personally and professionally. We have consulted each other on many shared patients throughout the years and worked collaboratively to optimize our patients' health. In addition, I have personally seen her for health care as have both my children. She changed the course of my youngest daughter's life health trajectory by helping with the diagnoses of Celiac disease at age 18 months. I am so grateful for her as a clinician to myself, my family and our community. Having worked in western family medicine for 8 years, I have learned to appreciate the collaborative approach that naturopathic doctors offer to optimize health. Roanne has the time and commitment to get to the root of problems and help heal by the examining the causes of imbalances in health that lead to disease. She is very gifted at this. Often in quick western medicine appointments of 15 min for acute problems, there is not the time to spend exploring the root cause of illness. The addition of her skillset to the medical community and the patients served here is essential. Patients who can't find answers through Westernized medicine often do find answers through naturopathic medicine. Roanne is kind natured, thorough in her history taking, physical exams, diagnostic testing, and offers comprehensive, individualized treatment plans to each patient. **She is fully competent and I have often wondered why Colorado does not offer prescriptive authority to naturopathic doctors. I am delighted to hear this is now a possibility. I am in 100% support of this bill.** Thank you for the consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Bonnie Strickland, MS, RN, FNP-BC
bstrickland@gvh-colorado.org
970-275-0241

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I want to support this bill because I am a patient of a naturopathic doctor who is currently treating me for a long list of chronic illnesses that are not correctly recognized by traditional allopathic medicine. My illnesses are debilitating and have changed my life forever. I can't live a normal life, I cannot even begin to explain what it feels like to have this. I can't drive and I can't just do normal things whenever I feel like it, something as simple as taking a shower can take me out for the entire day.

I had been to every specialist you can think of in the current traditional medical field and no one could find out what was wrong with me for 3 years. I have been struggling with this now for almost 6 years. Only when I did my own research and found out who could help me did I begin to get answers and treatments.

I have to pay roughly \$1000 on average, out of pocket for all the things I need to treat all of my illnesses. That is not including my visits which cost around \$200 every 2-3 months. The doctor's office I use has an in-house MD, if I happen to need prescriptions, I have to make a separate appointment with her to get them. Naturopathic Doctors go through schooling and know everything MDs know, plus more specific and special training to be a naturopathic doctor. They know how to treat patients as a whole and they know if prescriptions are needed in some cases. They should have the right to treat anything the patient needs like a traditional MD if the patient chooses them to take care of them completely as a Primary Care Physician also.

I would much rather have my ND be my primary care for everything because I could not rely on allopathic medicine to help me with what is wrong with me. I did not get any help from them. So I ask you to support this bill because I want you to put yourselves in my shoes.

If you were debilitatingly sick and could not find answers traditionally, and you finally found that naturopathic doctors were the only ones to help. Wouldn't you also want to go to who found what was wrong with you, and who you now trust with your treatment?

I ask you to have sympathy and empathy for the many of us who have had the same experience as I have. Think of if this was one of your loved ones, wouldn't you do anything for them to get better, especially if you found the NDs were the only ones with answers and could treat you effectively?

I do not wish anyone to go through what I am going through, and it would make it that much easier to be given the opportunity to have my ND be able to write me prescriptions if I need them and be a primary care physician if I need it. She is the only one who has gained my trust in medicine and I would rather not go to an traditional MD if I don't need to.

I advocate for naturopathic doctors because they have understanding of a lot more than people know. People need to know that when no one else can help, they can help. There has been a wrong narrative pushed out about naturopathic medicine and it needs to be addressed and recognized so people can make informed decisions about their course of treatment. It would save sick people a lot of money and time to not have to go to an MD just to hear they don't know

what is wrong with them for years. The NDs need your support and we as their patients need your help too. Thank you for your time.

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House Health & Human Services

02/28/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1171 Naturopathic Doctor Formulary

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kelly Hegarty For themselves	Please Vote in favor of HB24-1171 Naturopathic Doctor Formulary. This bill strengthens the naturopathic doctor formulary by permitting prescription classes of medicines, including legend drugs and certain controlled substances. The bill emphasizes annual consultation between the director and the advisory committee for formulary updates. Voting in favor of this bill is essential to support a more comprehensive regulatory framework for naturopathic doctors. This bill will allow for more comprehensive care from Naturopathic Doctors which gives greater choice to those patients. Thank You - Kelly Hegarty
Rebecca Schneider For themselves	My personal experience with Naturopathic medicine began 38 years ago. I realized at that time that nature and common sense were my preference in healthcare as it was for so many of our ancestors who settled this country. The licensed NDs today have evolved from that history with formal educational programs and specialties, often offered through traditional medical schools. They have made their value known and appreciated. I have enjoyed being treated by a variety of supplements, herbs, homeopathy, IVs, etc. I also appreciate the testing offered through ND care. And I have experienced times when I had to turn to an allopathic practitioner just for a particular legally prescribed drug when needed. I found this time consuming and redundant as my ND already knew which prescriptive I needed. I feel confident that our NDs of today are fully capable of prescribing a broader expanse of drugs and medicinals based on their training and ability to relate to both the history of natural medicinals, their drug based alternatives and side effects of each. Naturopathic professionalism and growth through an enlarged scope of practice affects a growing need in both rural and urban areas. The Formulary for Naturopathic Doctors should be expanded to prescribe essential drugs, etc. when needed in the state of Colorado. I support Bill HB24-1171.
Kathleen Kuntz For themselves	I am hoping to testify in person at the hearing on Wednesday. I have been receiving natural pathetic treatment from Dr.Kate Tackett for the last 6 years. I have suffered from severe stomach ulcers that hospitalized me and the natural pathetic treatment was the only treatment that cured this painful condition. I also have had (2) major spinal surgeries (5) discs in total requiring fusions leaving me permanently handicapped. The treatment I receive is helping me support my immune system in the healing process.

<p>sydney miller</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Madam Chair, and members of the committee,</p> <p>I am Sydney Miller of Gunnison, CO, and I am in strong support of HB 1171 L001 and L002 for the following reasons:</p> <p>I have worked in Western Medicine as a National registered Paramedic all over the united states, for almost fifteen years.</p> <p>While I am grateful for my position in the community, I also have seen and felt the affects this career holds.</p> <p>I struggle with severe depression and anxiety that, at times, deeply affect my day to day living.</p> <p>When I am not working as a Paramedic, I like to hike with my dog Ivy, fly fish, paddle board, and recreate in our beautiful state of Colorado.</p> <p>In the past few years I have empowered myself to take full control of my health and wellness. I have educated myself on the benefits of natural, and traditional healing, and have a Naturopathic provider who is able to include healing modalities into my daily life such as, natural herbal remedies, somatic healing (yoga, meditation, deep breathing exercises), and routine work to get to the root cause of chemical imbalances I experience.</p> <p>I have established care, trust, and rapport with my ND and am now facing a very unfortunate situation. I am currently in a position where I am needing further assistance from an RX medication to compliment the naturopathic care I am receiving. I now have to go to another provider for the RX, establish care, trust, rapport, added expense, time off, and triggers of my anxiety due to starting over with a provider just to seek help for myself.</p> <p>In my view, this is an unnecessary inconvenience, and traumatizing to be apart in. I ask that you take into consideration if I was your sister, friend, daughter, etc, seeking help and unable to find a smooth process in the system.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p> <p>Sydney Miller</p>
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Testimony

My name is Emily Takahashi and firstly I want to thank you for the opportunity to share my story and how naturopathic medicine impacted my life. Currently, I attend the University of Colorado Boulder as a sophomore, but spent my first year of college at Colorado State University. My freshman year at Colorado State was arguably the most difficult time of my life due to my constant health battles. I was a member of the Women's Division 1 soccer team after months of hard work. I've spent my whole life dedicating hours and weekends to soccer, and made the jump to try and walk on the to soccer team the summer before my freshman year.

At the start of the season, I was falling ill every week with a new illness, yet no one around me ever got sick from me. Everyone I spoke to assured me that this was completely normal and I'd just have to stick it out. As an athlete, taking time off to prioritize your health rarely happens. Although our sport is built around being in the best shape you can be, taking a break is seen as a weakness. It was ingrained in me to never quit until my body fully gave out, and eventually it did. I forced myself through practices and conditioning, training every day of the week. I had no diagnosis therefore no valid reason to not be able to perform. In the beginning, I felt like I was just out of shape or my lungs were still recovering from illness. Over time, my breathing continued to worsen. I started running to point that I was fainting and having panic attacks due to my inability to breathe. I used to be able to run six miles without thinking and play a full, brutal 90 minute game of soccer. Now, I couldn't even walk to class. After months of suffering, we finally found a naturopathic doctor that knew exactly what was going on without any official testing. I found my answer in December: mold poisoning. The relief of an answer couldn't undo the damage that had been done.

Mold poisoning continued to affect me even after a diagnosis. The dorms and dining hall were the cause of my mold poisoning, forcing me to move home and eventually quit soccer. I found myself in and out of hospitals after developing a number of symptoms and other health conditions like Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO), depression, anxiety, breathing problems, chest pains, severe cystic acne, and hormonal imbalances. All of these health issues and I was still told by an ER doctor that I was "young and would be fine", to just "eat healthy and sleep enough". I couldn't eat without severe pain and my trauma from constantly being at hospitals kept me awake at night.

My story is one of many, and most don't find the help they truly need. Naturopathic medicine provides patients like me with answers and long-term support. It works with your body and heals it from the inside out. I've recommended countless friends and families to look into naturopathic medicine and all of them have thanked me for helping them find someone who finally gave them answers instead of medications. I owe my naturopathic doctor my life; there were times I wondered if I wouldn't be able to leave the ER. The scope of their practice needs to be expanded in order to reach other people like me who are continuously told nothing is wrong

with them while they are suffering. Naturopathic medicine is a necessity for all individuals to improve and maintain their health by listening to their body and addressing the root cause. It's because of my holistic medicine doctor that I'm alive and able to share my story and I hope so many others are able to find healing in naturopathic medicine.

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