

Doctors of Chiropractic

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My name is Dane Borman, DC, I am a Doctor of Chiropractic and a board-certified chiropractic radiologist. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 24 – 1171 regarding the naturopathic doctor formulary. I personally know two naturopathic doctors, Rachel Walker, N.D., and Dr. Christina M. Tondora, N.D., and they are two of the brightest, well educated, compassionate and industrious doctors I have ever met. By supporting this house bill it will allow these excellent doctors to practice within the scope of their education and I know passing this bill will be of benefit to the patients of Colorado and to the medical community.

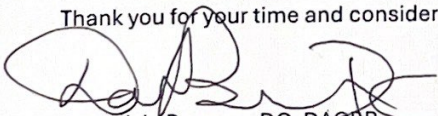
One of the ways that I see naturopathic doctors being a benefit to the Colorado communities is by providing primary care and routine health care to Colorado residents that have been struggling with long wait times for appointments with physicians. As naturopathic doctors they are highly skilled and educated in diagnosing and treating medical conditions as well as dispensing, administering, injecting, and providing natural remedies as well as pharmaceuticals. This bill allows naturopathic doctors to prescribe within their current scope of naturopathic doctorate education and give Colorado residents the access to healthcare they deserve.

Naturopathic doctors receive a full four-year medical school training including 75 hours of pharmacology and they also specialize in preventative care in their community. In this era of rising healthcare costs providing preventative care via naturopathic doctors can decrease medical expenditures by millions of dollars per year by allowing patients easier access to care without seeking healthcare in urgent care or emergency room settings.

Based on the past experience of other states that have given broad prescribing rights to naturopathic doctors including California, Montana, Vermont, Oregon, Arizona, Washington, Hawaii, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Utah there have been minimal disciplinary actions even in states where ability to prescribe opiates, and no actions brought against naturopathic doctors where opiates have been excluded. The legend formulary that this bill proposes excludes opiates and benzodiazepines and instead focuses on meeting the primary care needs of everyday people.

I respectfully suggest that Naturopathic Doctors are given the ability to prescribe medications as outlined in House Bill 24 – 1171.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Dane A.L. Borman, DC, DACBR

1873 South Bellaire Suite 1220 Denver, CO 80222

4/11/2024

Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

Our names are Michael Matergia, MD, Selina Martinez, DO, Emma Munger, MD and we are family physicians in Denver, Colorado. We are testifying on behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians, which represents over 2,500 family physicians, residents and students across our state in opposition of Naturopathic Doctor Formulary (HB24-1171) because we have concerns regarding the limited pharmaceutical training of Naturopathic Doctors which could jeopardize patient safety.

The ability to prescribe medications can undoubtedly provide benefits and increase accessibility for patients. However, it can also have unforeseen downfalls. Recently, one of our patients who had traveled from Mexico had a medication provided to him which he reported was for pain. Unknown to him, this medication was a high potency steroid. These medications can be beneficial in some diseases and maladies, however, when used improperly, can pose several risks and dangers to one's health. They cause hormonal imbalance, cardiovascular risks, impact mental health, and interfere with normal development. Also, if misused or not titrated properly, can lead to hospitalization or even death. This is an example of a commonly prescribed medication that would be at the disposal of providers who are only required to complete 5 and half credit hours of pharmaceutical training in comparison to over 9,360 hours a family medicine resident completes over their 3 years of training. By comparison Naturopathic doctors are not required to complete post-graduate training after graduation from a naturopathic program. Residency training involves learning how to prescribe medications under consistent supervision from experienced faculty physicians as well as both inpatient and outpatient training which lends insight to the benefits and risks of prescribing.

As residents (Emma Munger, MD and Selina Martinez, DO), we are in the middle of our training years and we recognize the importance of this additional time and education to be able to provide the best patient care. Despite the extensive pharmacology courses we all underwent in medical school, so much of our real learning happens during our residency. During these years we still have the supervision and assistance of our attending physicians. We also spend up to 80 hours every week taking care of patients in a variety of settings including inpatient and outpatient. It is during this time that we gain the necessary skills and knowledge to safely prescribe medications. Allowing naturopathic providers to prescribe without this additional residency training or supervision poses the risk of worse patient outcomes.

Prescription medications are incredibly powerful and beneficial; however, they are not without risks. Safe and appropriate prescribing of medications is an immensely complicated task that requires extensive and ongoing training. Expanding prescriptive authority to health professionals without the necessary training is a recipe for patient harm. While we have the utmost respect for naturopathic doctors and enjoy collaborating with them in the care of patients, they simply do not receive the same level in pharmacology. We do not believe that their training and experience is aligned with the interests of patients in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated and we ask for you to vote in opposition of this bill (HB24-1171).

Sincerely,

Emma Munger, MD, 2nd-year Resident

Selina Martinez, DO, 2nd-year Resident

Michael Matergia, MD, Associate Program Director

Saint Joseph Hospital - Family Medicine Residency Program, Denver, CO

## **Testimony in FAVOR of HB24-1171**

By Kathy Haddock, Attorney in Broomfield, Colorado

I rely on Naturopathic Doctors for my health care in several instances because my issues are systemic rather than limited to a different part of my body. I need the diagnostic expertise that NDs provide. **The current law INCREASES my health care costs** by requiring duplication of doctors.

Most recently my ND found a thyroid issue that required medication. It cost extra time and money for me to make an appointment with a MD to get the prescription for the medication the NC recommended. **There was a delay in my treatment of 4 weeks and a cost of over \$300 that was unnecessary.**

I have no reason to go to the MD other than for the prescription. The ND is taking care of all of my other needs. The MD does not provide the same diagnostic services.

NDs have the same training on medications as MDs, pass the same tests, and are subject to the same regulations and regulator. Other medical providers with less training already have prescription writing abilities that this bill would grant to NDs.

**Pass HB24-1171 to decrease medical costs and time for patients without compromising medical care.**

I appreciate your favorable vote.

Kathy Haddock

Senate Health & Human Services  
 03/27/2024 Upon Adjournment  
 HB24-1171 Naturopathic Doctor Formulary  
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Dawn Moon For herself	<p>I am a Family Nurse Practitioner and work at a Primary Care Clinic. I have the pleasure and honor of working with a Naturopathic Doctor. Her knowledge and expertise are incredible. I go to her often for suggestions and advise on how best to manage the increasing number of hormone issues in today's population. This bill will help with how NDs are best able to help their patients without so many restrictions.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,            Dawn Moon FNP-BC</p>
Teresa Monson For South Pointe Healthcare	<p>When it comes to Naturopathic providers we tend to think of healing the human body via natural holistic methods. But that doesn't mean conventional and natural medicine are mutually exclusive in treating the patient.</p> <p>Naturopathic providers are simply put, Primary care providers. They go through extensive training so that they are prepared and qualified to diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illnesses. The typical training is reinforced through a minimum of 1,200 hours of hands-on, clinical practice. As well as they have to be well-versed in Pharmacology because it's part of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX). Naturopathic Providers also receive training in botanical herb/drug and supplement/drug interactions and in identifying nutrient deficiencies as a result of long-term drug use. NDs take about 130 classroom hours of botanical medicine education so that they can identify and treat these interactions. Given this extensive training, it makes a Naturopathic Provider better equipped to serve their patients and protect them from harmful interactions than even most regular Primary Care Providers.</p> <p>Knowing that there are many scenarios in which prescription drugs are useful and necessary to treat an illness. In a lot of cases, patients would benefit from integrating certain prescribed medications into their ND's treatment plan.</p>
Marsha Haley Against herself	<p>HB24-1171 bill will allow naturopaths to prescribe medications including opioids.</p> <p>Naturopaths do not have the training that physicians do. They are not trained to diagnose, manage, and treat medical conditions.</p> <p>This bill is dangerous for Colorado patients.</p>

