

Senate Health & Human Services

02/06/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-032 Naturopathic Doctor Reqmnts Formulary

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Katelyn Pruett</p> <p>Against</p> <p>Colorado Academy of Family Physicians</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,</p> <p>My name is Katelyn Pruett, and I am a second-year family medicine resident practicing in Denver. I'm writing on behalf of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians to express my serious concerns about Senate Bill 25-032, which would dramatically expand naturopathic doctors' scope of practice in Colorado. Having gone through extensive medical training myself, I can speak firsthand about the rigorous education required to safely prescribe medications and treat complex medical conditions.</p> <p>Let me give you a glimpse of what medical training actually entails. Before even starting residency, I completed four years of medical school with over 4,000 hours of clinical rotations across all major specialties. Now, as a resident, I work 60-80 hours per week treating patients under supervision, which adds up to roughly 3,000 hours of clinical training each year. By the time I complete my three-year residency, I'll have accumulated well over 13,000 hours of hands-on patient care experience.</p> <p>During this training, I've learned to manage complex medication interactions, recognize subtle signs of serious illness, and handle medical emergencies. I've treated everything from routine health issues to life-threatening conditions, working alongside experienced physicians who guide me through challenging cases. This intensive, standardized training is what allows me to safely prescribe medications and treat serious conditions - and even with all this training, I still consult with specialists and more experienced colleagues when needed.</p> <p>That's why I'm deeply concerned about SB25-032. This bill would allow naturopathic doctors, who receive just 1,200 hours of clinical training (with only 850 hours of actual patient care), to prescribe powerful medications like barbiturates, hormones, and anabolic steroids. They would be authorized to treat serious conditions like cancer, seizures, and cardiac</p>

disease without ever completing a medical residency or receiving comprehensive training in managing complex medical conditions.

The bill raises several red flags:

- It gives prescription authority to practitioners whose training primarily focuses on natural remedies, not pharmaceutical management
- It allows the DORA director (who doesn't need any medical background) to expand the formulary even further
- It creates patient safety risks when naturopaths might unknowingly prescribe medications that interact with treatments from other providers
- It opens the door to licensing based on other states' minimal requirements

While the bill protects kids under 18 from naturopathic prescriptions, it leaves other vulnerable patients - like elderly people or those with multiple medical conditions - at risk. As someone who regularly treats these complex patients, I can tell you that safe prescribing requires extensive training and experience that naturopathic programs simply don't provide.

Supporters might say this is about improving healthcare access, but the data shows that naturopaths typically practice in the same areas as physicians. This isn't fixing an access problem - it's creating a patient safety issue.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB25-032. As someone in the trenches of medical training, I can assure you that there are no shortcuts to developing the expertise needed for safe prescribing. Our patients deserve care from providers who have completed comprehensive clinical training.

I'm happy to discuss this further or provide more details about medical training and patient safety concerns. Thank you for considering this crucial public safety issue.

Best regards,

Katelyn Pruett, MD MPH

	Family Medicine Resident Physician, PGY-2
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February 6, 2025

Senate Health & Human Services Committee

SB25-032 - Naturopathic Doctor Requirements Formulary

Chair Mullica and Committee Members,

I am Jennifer Hagman, MD. I am a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and board certified in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry, practicing for 32 years in Colorado.

I am a member of the Colorado Psychiatric Society (CPS) and the Colorado Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society (CCAPS).

- Specific to the practice of Psychiatry, ND's do not have the clinical training or educational background to safely prescribe powerful psychotropic medication. **Advanced medical training and psychopharmacology training is required to understand how psychiatric drugs affect the entire body and interact with other medications.**
- Training and experience matters. ND's do not have the background, education or clinical experience to expand their practice to include prescription medication or devices.
- Their 4 year post graduate education is focused on Naturopathic practices and differs significantly from Medical or Osteopathic physician education
- There is no residency requirement for ND's and thus no clinical training or experience required after completion of the 4 year program.
- Residency training, which ranges from 3-5 years or more for MD's and DO's, after completion of medical school, is critical for the continued education, training and development of medical decision-making skills.

I urge you to vote No SB 25-032 - on expanding the scope of Naturopathic doctors (NDs) to include prescription medication and devices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Hagman, MD

