

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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From: Senator Kathy Bernier

To: Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 532
Relating to: the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, creating a naturopathic medicine examining board, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

Date: September 29, 2021

Thank you Chairwoman Felzkowski and committee members for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 532 today. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Rep. Rodriguez on this important piece of legislation.

Improving patient access to care, patient safety and patient choice by licensing qualified Naturopathic Doctors is why we introduced this bill. The majority of these providers are small business owners working in private practice clinics located in both urban and rural communities. With access to health care being an issue in many Wisconsin communities, licensing Naturopathic Doctors will increase patient access to care.

Naturopathic Doctors have completed pre-medical requisites and an undergraduate degree, followed by a four-year naturopathic medical school degree from an accredited program, before passing a rigorous national naturopathic medical exam. In addition, clinical education is incorporated into the four-year program with optional post-doctoral residencies.

The naturopathic medical school curriculum has an emphasis on understanding how drugs interact with herbs and nutrients, and how they should be applied in an integrative fashion. Multiple pharmacology courses are a part of the core curriculum. When appropriate, Naturopathic Doctors prioritize the use of lifestyle medicine, herbs, and nutrients over synthetic pharmaceuticals.

Senate Bill 532 will codify what Naturopathic Doctors are already trained to do and are doing in other licensed states. Nearly half of the states license these types of practitioners, some for over eighty years. This bill will also allow Naturopathic Doctors to obtain malpractice insurance, thereby increasing public safety.

This legislation does not inhibit the practice of any other natural health providers, whether selling nutritional supplements, or providing health consultation. In addition, a limited scope license is available for practitioners who may not meet the full licensing requirements.

Officially recognizing and allowing Naturopathic Doctors to practice to the full extent of their training is an important step forward for Wisconsin's health community. I ask you to please consider the passage of Senate Bill 532. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

SB 532: Regulation and Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors, Creating a Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board

**Testimony of State Representative Jessie Rodriguez
Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
September 29, 2021**

Thank you Chair Felzkowski, Ranking Member Taylor, and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 532 ([SB 532](#)), legislation that seeks to license Naturopathic Doctors and regulate their practice.

SB 532 will allow Wisconsinites who prefer to see a naturopathic doctor as either their primary care provider or as a complement to conventional medicine the confidence in knowing the naturopathic doctor treating them is licensed under state law and responsible to a Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board.

Senate Bill 532 will improve patient access to care and expand patient choice by licensing qualified naturopathic doctors. Under the bill, NDs scope of practice will include:

- Diagnosis and treatment
- Conducting physical exams
- Ordering and interpreting labs and imaging
- Diet and lifestyle counseling
- Use of naturopathic therapeutics
- Prescribing medications consistent with primary care

This bill will provide for patient safety by establishing the Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board under the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPA), which will determine and uphold the ethical standards of the practice of naturopathic medicine. This will promote public safety by establishing educational requirements, examinations, and annual continuing education requirements for NDs.

Allowing naturopathic doctors to practice with the scope under the bill will allow them to better help the patients that seek their care. Under current law, naturopathic doctors who are licensed in other states and practicing in Wisconsin are precluded from diagnosing and treating conditions, conducting physical exams, ordering labs or imaging, and prescribing medications. Yet, all of these practices are within the scope of the education and training they receive under programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). Giving naturopathic doctors the ability to practice to the full extent of their training will benefit patients in our state.



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

I would also like to make clear that SB 532 will not exclude other providers, holistic healers, health food stores, and others from practicing in the way they are trained according to their current practice. The bill does not make changes to the way these professions practice. Patients should be allowed to visit other natural providers, but they should also know the difference between providers. The purpose of licensing NDs in the state of Wisconsin is to allow them to diagnose and treat according to their training as doctors.

Patients choose naturopathic doctors because they understand the length and scope of their training, accreditation, competency, and commitment to public safety. This bill will codify what naturopathic doctors are already trained to do and are licensed to do in 22 other states and allow patients the opportunity to confidently choose naturopathic care.

I encourage your support for this legislation. Thank you for your time. Sen. Bernier, Rep. Rozar, and I welcome any questions you may have.



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Testimony to Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry

Senate Bill 535

September 29, 2021

Thank you, Chair Felzkowski, Vice-Chair Stafsholt, and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry for holding this hearing on SB 532, relating to the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, creating a naturopathic medicine examining board, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

In other states, licensed naturopathic doctors provide competent, knowledgeable, and quality care, but currently are restricted to open a comparable practice in WI. There are WI natives who would like to return to WI and practice, but are limited under current WI law. Passage of this Bill would encourage those practitioners to return to WI and provide an additional option for individuals seeking care in addition to conventional therapies. I support this Bill because it allows an individual educated in an accredited naturopathic educational facility to practice to the full extent of their education while increasing accountability, as is done for other health care practitioners.

I would like to specifically address the prescribing ability of these professionals. As a nurse educator who taught pharmacology for many years and who worked as a clinical nurse administering medications for more years than that, I would like to add some thoughts regarding the prescribing authority of these health care professionals. In addition to the products noted in the Bill on page 14, lines 13-15, naturopathic health care practitioners may prescribe, dispense, and administer substances within their scope of experience, education, and training, with specific limitations as noted on pages 29 and 30 of the Bill, specifically Schedule, I, II, and III controlled substances. I reviewed the curricula from Schools of Naturopathic Medicine and noted the basic and clinical science education students receive which includes pharmacology. Those 4 year programs, which follow a completed undergraduate degree (post-doctoral residencies are also available), result in the awarding of a Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine, include instruction in conventional therapeutics as well as naturopathic therapeutics. Combining conventional therapies and naturopathic therapies to the benefit of an individual's health can be beneficial, and this Bill provides that option for individuals. The extensive education of a naturopathic doctor qualifies them to provide that combination of therapies while making them accountable to the public through licensure with the oversight of an examining board that will occur with the passage of this Bill. Penalties would be in place for violations.

The prescribing, dispensing, and administration of drugs is a privilege, and with privilege comes responsibility. The responsibility of the individual who prescribes, dispenses, and administers drugs is to be knowledgeable of the many facets that allow them to do so safely. I am convinced that the education of naturopathic doctors provides the education necessary to do so within their scope of practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 532. Your support of this legislation would be appreciated. I am glad to answer any questions you have.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

September 29, 2021

TO: Senator Mary Felzkowski, Chair and Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry and members of the committee

From: Dr. Allison Becker, representing the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association

Madam Chair, members of the Senate Committee, I am Dr. Allison Becker. I am a Naturopathic Doctor and acupuncturist. I am also a member of the Legislative Team of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of SB 532 of which you are a co-sponsor along with Senator Taylor and Senator Ringhand on this committee. We also want to thank our lead senate author Senator Bernier who has worked very hard to get the bill before you today with a number of changes that were made as a result of working with different stakeholders. We also thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on this bill.

As a Naturopathic Doctor and acupuncturist, I have provided care for local Wisconsinites since 2006. I have my own private clinic in Evansville where I provide natural medical care to people of all ages. I specialize in women's health, chronic pain and fatigue. As a part of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association, I have been working towards creating licensure for NDs in Wisconsin for over a decade. Since we have not had licensure in Wisconsin, I carry a license to practice Naturopathic Medicine in the state of Vermont to be able to uphold my credential, maintain my continuing education, and distinguish my qualifications so my patients can understand how I have been trained. Without licensure, I cannot practice to my full scope, I cannot provide primary care for my patients, nor can I carry malpractice insurance.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

I received my medical training at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. The ND program I completed is a 4 year, residential doctorate program that graduates licensable Naturopathic Doctors. My school is one of 5 schools in the US that are federally accredited by the US Department of Education as naturopathic medical institutions. I've attached a copy of a typical curriculum of a Naturopathic Medical school program. You can see the curriculum is similar to a conventional MD medical school. NDs study the same biomedical sciences, clinical physical diagnosis, minor surgery and pharmacology as MDs. NDs then also study natural therapeutics of nutrition, exercise, lifestyle, and herbal medicine.

Currently, nearly half of the US has laws to regulate Naturopathic Doctors. This includes 23 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. In all of these states, Naturopathic Doctors are required to graduate from accredited four-year residential naturopathic medical programs and pass an extensive postdoctoral board examination in order to receive a license. Licensed Naturopathic Doctors must fulfill continuing education requirements annually and have a specific scope of practice as defined by their state's law. See attached map to view which states are licensed and also note those states which are not yet licensed, but have current legislation action to license NDs. You will notice this wave to license Naturopathic Doctors is swelling across the country.

Across the nation and the globe, there is a movement to standardize naturopathic medical education and distinguish between those who are medically trained from those who are not. Those who are medically trained are called Naturopathic Doctors. Those who are not medically trained are called naturopaths, or lay or traditional naturopaths.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

Licensable, medically trained Naturopathic Doctors are trained as primary care providers. In some states where NDs are licensed, we are called naturopathic physicians. To be clear, we are not asking for that title under this proposed legislation. We are NOT an enemy to MDs. We work together with MDs to provide the best possible patient care. In states where NDs are licensed, NDs have an excellent record of safety. NDs understand their scope of practice, the limits of their training and know when to refer to MDs for specialized care. Conversely, NDs often receive referrals from medical doctors who feel, based on their training, they cannot help their patient further. MDs understand because our training is different, we can help their patients in a different way. NDs collaborate in patient care and enjoy many positive relationships with the medical community across this state as well as other allied health professionals such as medical doctors, chiropractors, physical therapists, pharmacists. You will be hearing from some of these providers today.

To help you further understand this national movement to bring Naturopathic Doctors to their rightful place in the health care continuum, 4 letters are being submitted separately. These letters are from the 4 organizational pillars that create the infrastructure for the naturopathic medical profession. All health care professions have 4 similar organizational pillars which maintain the integrity of each profession, uphold credentials and maintain best practices.

These pillars include:

- 1) Our national organization, the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians.
- 2) The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, the only accrediting body for Naturopathic Medical Education that is recognized by the US Department of Education.
- 3) The North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners, which creates and administers the 3-day national licensing exam for NDs to affirm competency to call oneself a Naturopathic Doctor.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

- 4) The Federation of Naturopathic Medical Regulation Authorities, whose mission is to protect the public and promote standards of excellence in the regulation of naturopathic medicine in North America.

I would like to use my time now to give you an overview of Senate Bill 532, a licensure bill for Naturopathic Doctors. I intend to clarify what IS and what is NOT in Senate Bill 532 and prevent confusion that may arise in today's testimony. There will be people who testify after me and others who are supporting passage of this legislation. We continue to work with our lead authors should clarifying language be needed anywhere.

First- What is in Senate bill 532?

- This bill sets educational standards for licensable Naturopathic Doctors. NDs must be graduates of fully accredited naturopathic medical schools. These schools are fully accredited by the US Department of Education. NDs complete pre-medical prerequisites with an undergraduate degree before going on to Naturopathic Medical school. NDs then complete a 4 year doctorate, residential, graduate-level degree at an accredited Naturopathic Medical school. Qualified NDs must pass standardized, national board exams administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners. Once licensed, NDs must maintain annual continuing education.
- Senate bill 532 protects the title Naturopathic Doctor. Only those qualified as a licensed Naturopathic Doctor will be able to use this title and call themselves an ND. Without this law, anyone can call themselves a Naturopathic Doctor and convey to a patient that they have an expertise that they may not have. People have the right to expect anyone using the title "doctor" has undergone medical training and credentialing to have earned the right to use this title. Licensure will ensure the public can trust that anyone calling themselves a



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

Naturopathic Doctor is qualified, competent and has invested years of education and training to deserve the right to use such a title.

- Senate bill 532 creates a Naturopathic Medical Examining Board which will provide oversight of Naturopathic Doctors and uphold ethical standards of naturopathic medical practice. The board will ensure Naturopathic Doctors are physically, mentally and professionally competent. The role of this board is identical to other professional boards of other licensed professions.
- Senate bill 532 stipulates qualified NDs must pass a pharmacology exam, a jurisprudence exam, maintain continuing education and carry malpractice insurance, all of which will be determined by the board by rule. Upon passage of this bill, this of course will take some time to develop. We imagine other allied health professionals will be a part of the evolution of these policies.
- Senate bill 532 defines the scope of a licensed Naturopathic Doctor and allows NDs to practice as they are trained, as primary care providers specializing in natural medicine. This includes the ability to diagnose and treat disease. For example, NDs will be able to conduct physical exams, order and interpret labs and imaging, use natural medicines, prescribe pharmaceuticals, and perform minor surgical procedures. We already do this in states where we are licensed. Let me say more about pharmaceuticals, because this has come up with other lawmakers. The prescribing ability of NDs is consistent with that of a primary care provider. In practice, NDs prescribe infrequently and use natural means when possible, but also recognize there are times when a medication is needed. NDs are trained as responsible, competent medical providers. Another Naturopathic Doctor from the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association will testify more fully on this specific aspect of this legislation.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

- Senate Bill 532 also includes a grandfathering clause, a “limited-scope license”. This license allows people who are trained at the global standard of lay naturopath, not a medically trained Naturopathic Doctor, to be able to still use the title ND, but be limited to the scope of which they are trained. This global standard, defined by the World Health Organization, is a minimum of 1500 hours of education in naturopathy. The limited-scope license does NOT allow these NDs to diagnose and treat disease, prescribe pharmaceuticals, and perform minor surgery. This grandfathering language was reluctantly agreed to by our Association to accommodate the wishes of the two Chiropractic Associations who asked us to take care of some individuals who would not qualify for the title upon passage of the bill. This took us the better part of a year to compromise on this. This limited-scope license was not something we sought when we drafted our legislation. It was in reaction to concerns that our lead authors asked us to address.

What is NOT in Senate Bill 532:

- This bill does not fence anyone out. This bill simply codifies and defines how a Naturopathic Doctor is trained and what service they provide. We have intentionally left the term naturopath in the public sphere. People who practice naturopathy but do not meet the qualifications to call themselves a Naturopathic Doctor, will be able to call themselves naturopaths or any other unprotected title they may choose. They may continue to operate their businesses as they do now, unaffected by this bill. The only change they will have to make to their business is in their title. At issue here is the distinction between the credentialed coursework from accredited naturopathic medical schools versus for someone to take some courses then hang out a shingle and call themselves a Naturopathic Doctor, implying they have the same level of education, training and expertise that we do. They do not. These unlicensable, lay naturopaths help people. That is not what is at issue here. At issue is the qualifications



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

necessary to use the title Naturopathic Doctor. You will likely hear from speakers who will tell you they will be put out of business if this passes. Please ask them specifically how they would be fenced out. The sole issue appears to be their desired use of the title "Doctor" even though they know they don't have recognized, standardized naturopathic medical training.

- This bill does NOT allow NDs to prescribe drugs that are highly addictive, including controlled substances in DEA Schedule 1, 2 and 3. The drugs an ND is trained to prescribe are those commonly found in primary care practice including antibiotics, thyroid medication and cough suppressants.
- This bill does NOT allow NDs to perform any surgical procedure other than minor surgery. Examples of minor surgery procedures include stitching a superficial cut or removing a splinter.
- This bill does NOT allow NDs to perform chiropractic adjustments. We modified the original language so that it was acceptable to both Chiropractic Associations.

Many Wisconsinites want an ND as their primary care provider. You will hear from some of these people today. Through their stories, you will see licensing NDs ultimately saves health care dollars and gives people the ability to choose this medicine as their primary care.

Passing SB 532 that will license Naturopathic Doctors who demonstrate training and credentials will increase public safety, increase access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their own health care.

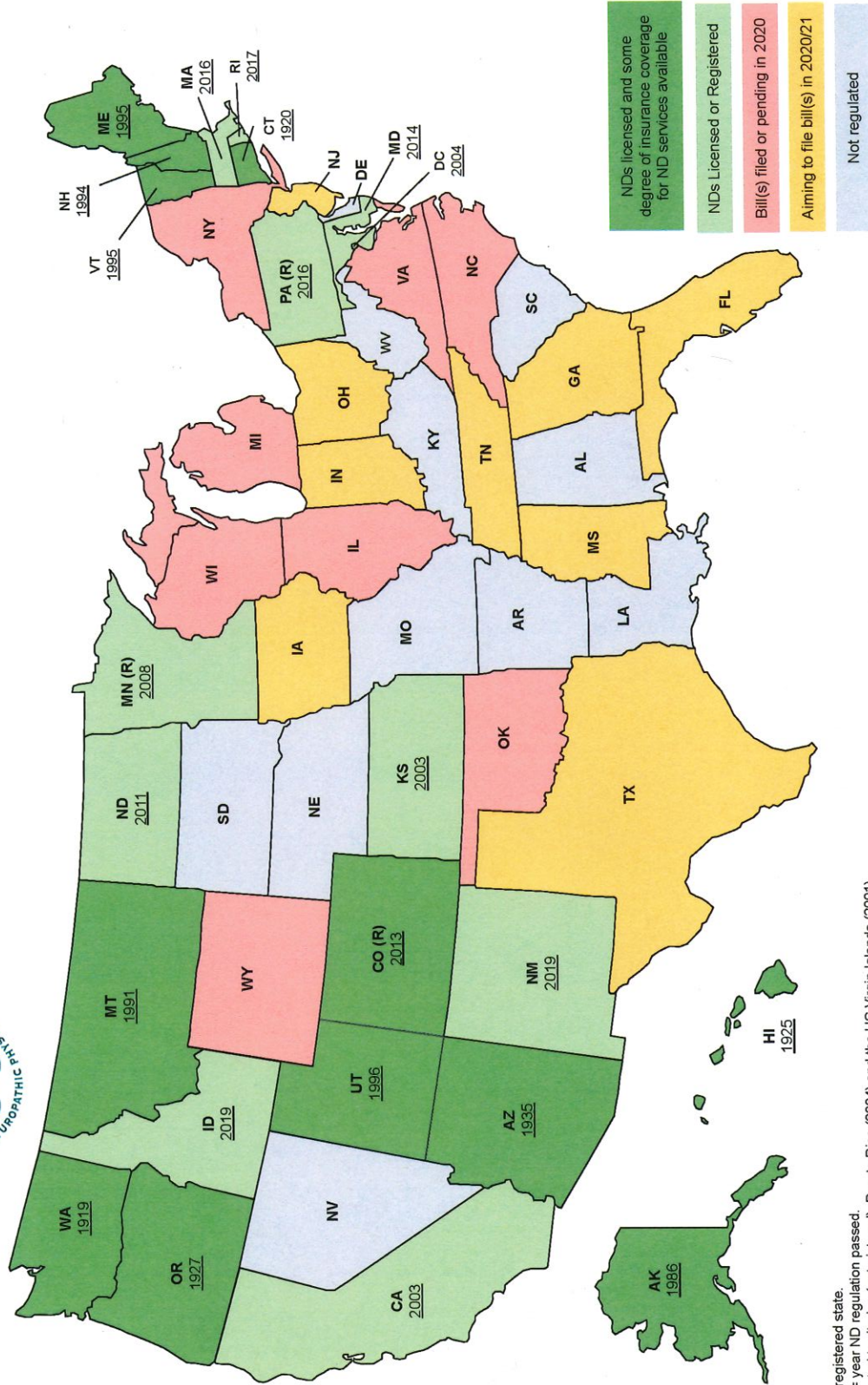
Thank you for your service, and thank you for your support for licensure for Naturopathic Doctors.

Any questions? I may also defer to other speakers coming after me if I know they can address your specific questions.



Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in the United States

(Updated: 2.21.2020)



(R) = registered state.
 Year = year ND regulation passed.
 Regulated territories (not pictured): Puerto Rico (2004) and the US Virgin Islands (2001).



Naturopathic Medical Education: Hours of training for licensable NDs are similar to MDs

Accreditation	<i>Federally Accredited Medical Schools</i>					<i>Not Accredited</i>
Type	<i>Naturopathic Medical Schools</i>		<i>Conventional Medical Schools</i>			<i>Correspondence</i>
School Name	National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM)	BASTYR University Naturopathic Medical Program	YALE University Medical School	JOHNS HOPKINS Medical School	Medical College of Wisconsin	Trinity College of Natural Health
Total Hours	4668 + thesis	4472 + thesis	4311 + residency*	5162 + residency*	3774 + residency*	784 +dissertation
<i>Basic & Clinical Sciences</i>	1548	1639	1420	1771	1463	272
<i>Conventional Therapeutics</i>	2244	1925	2891	3391	2311	0
<i>Naturopathic Therapeutics</i>	588	633	0	0	0	336
<i>Therapeutic Nutrition</i>	144	132	0	0	0	176
<i>Counseling</i>	144	143	Included above	Included above	Included above	0

Federally Accredited Naturopathic Medical Schools

Bastyr University - Seattle WA: bastyr.edu/academics/naturopathic-medicine

Bastyr University - San Diego CA: bastyr.edu/academics/naturopathic-medicine/doctoral/naturopathic-doctorate

National University of Health Sciences - Lombard IL: www.nuhs.edu

National University of Natural Medicine - Portland OR: www.ncnm.edu

Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine - Tempe AZ: www.scnm.edu

University of Bridgeport - College of Naturopathic Medicine - Bridgeport CT: www.bridgeport.edu/naturopathy

***Residencies are federally funded and available to all MDs. For NDs, residencies are privately funded and too few for all ND graduates.**

Basic and Clinical Sciences: anatomy, physiology, cell biology, histology, pathology, biochemistry, lab diagnosis, neuroscience, clinical physical diagnosis, radiology, genetics, pharmacognosy & pharmacology, biostatistics, epidemiology, public health, history & philosophy, ethics, and other coursework.

Conventional Therapeutics: lecture and clinical instruction in family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, geriatrics, dermatology, gastroenterology, urology, neurology, psychiatry, minor surgery, ophthalmology, and clinical electives.

Naturopathic Therapeutics: botanical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, Chinese medicine, naturopathic physical medicine, Ayurvedic medicine, naturopathic case analysis & management, naturopathic philosophy, advanced naturopathic therapeutics.



National University of Natural Medicine, Portland, Oregon 2019 Curriculum, ND (Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine)

ND Four-Year Curriculum

First Year

Fall

- BAS 5110 - Structure and Function I Credit(s): 13.00
- Lecture: 156 | Total Hours: 156
- BAS 5110T - Structure and Function I Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00
- Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5110L - Structure and Function I Lab Credit(s): 0.50
- Lab: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- BAS 5111 - Clinical Anatomy I Credit(s): 3.00
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5111T - Clinical Anatomy I Tutorial Credit(s): 1.00
- Tutorial: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- BAS 5111L - Clinical Anatomy I Lab Credit(s): 1.50
- Lab: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- PHL 5110 - Naturopathic History and Philosophy I Credit(s): 1.00
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- PHL 5113 - Introduction to Medical Systems Credit(s): 2.00
- Lecture: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- Electives Credit(s): 1.00 *
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12

First-Year Fall Totals - Tutorial: 48 | Lab: 48 | Lecture: 240 | Total Hours: 336 | Credits: 26.00

Winter

- BAS 5120 - Structure and Function II Credit(s): 8.00
- Lecture: 96 | Total Hours: 96
- BAS 5120T - Structure and Function II Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00
- Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5120L - Structure and Function II Lab Credit(s): 0.25
- Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- BAS 5121 - Clinical Anatomy II Credit(s): 3.00
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5121T - Clinical Anatomy II Tutorial Credit(s): 1.00
- Tutorial: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- BAS 5121L - Clinical Anatomy II Lab Credit(s): 1.50
- Lab: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- PHL 5120 - Naturopathic History and Philosophy II Credit(s): 1.00
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- THR 5120 - Therapeutic Modalities I Credit(s): 6.00
- Lecture: 72 | Total Hours: 72
- THR 5120T - Therapeutic Modalities I Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00
- Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- THR 5120L - Therapeutic Modalities I Lab Credit(s): 1.00
- Lab: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLE 5120 - Clinical Observation I Credit(s): 1.25
- Clinic: 20 | Lecture: 5 | Total Hours: 25
- Electives Credit(s): 1.00 *
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12

First-Year Winter Totals - Clinic: 20 | Tutorial: 72 | Lab: 66 | Lecture: 233 | Total Hours: 391 | Credits: 29.00

Spring

- BAS 5130 - Structure and Function III Credit(s): 8.00
- Lecture: 96 | Total Hours: 96



- BAS 5130T - Structure and Function III Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00 Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5130L - Structure and Function III Lab Credit(s): 0.25
- Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- PHL 5130 - Naturopathic Medicine Retreat Credit(s): 0.75
- Lab: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- THR 5131 - Therapeutic Modalities II Credit(s): 6.00
- Lecture: 72 | Total Hours: 72
- THR 5131T - Therapeutic Modalities II Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00
- Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- THR 5131L - Therapeutic Modalities II Lab Credit(s): 0.50
- Lab: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- BAS 5131 - Microbiology, Public Health and Immunology Credit(s): 3.00
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- BAS 5131T - Microbiology, Public Health and Immunology Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00
- Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLE 5130 - Clinical Observation II Credit(s): 1.00
- Clinic: 20 | Lecture: 2 | Total Hours: 22
- CLE 5131 - Introduction to Community Education Credit(s): 0.25
- Lecture: 3 | Total Hours: 3
- Electives Credit(s): 1.00 *
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12

First-Year Spring Totals - Clinic: 20 | Tutorial: 84 | Lab: 36 | Lecture: 221 | Total Hours: 361 | Credits: 27.75

First-Year Totals - Clinic: 40 | Tutorial: 204 | Lab: 150 | Lecture: 694 | Total Hours: 1088 | Credits: 82.75



Second Year

Fall

- CLS 6210 - Musculoskeletal, Orthopedics, Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Credit(s): 9.00
- Lecture: 108 | Total Hours: 108
- CLS 6210T - Musculoskeletal, Orthopedics, Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Tutorial Credit(s): 6.00
- Tutorial: 72 | Total Hours: 72
- CLS 6210L - Musculoskeletal, Orthopedics, Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Lab Credit(s): 3.00
- Lab: 72 | Total Hours: 72
- CLS 6211 - Neurology Credit(s): 5.50
- Lecture: 66 | Total Hours: 66
- CLS 6211T - Neurology Tutorial Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLS 6211L - Neurology Lab Credit(s): 0.25
- Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- CLE 6212 - Introduction to Clinic Credit(s): 0.25
- Lecture: 3 | Total Hours: 3

Second-Year Fall Totals - Tutorial: 90 | Lab: 78 | Lecture: 177 | Total Hours: 345 | Credits: 25.50

Winter

- CLS 6220 - Cardiology and Pulmonology Credit(s): 9.00
- Lecture: 108 | Total Hours: 108
- CLS 6220T - Cardiology and Pulmonology Tutorial Credit(s): 4.00
- Tutorial: 48 | Total Hours: 48
- CLS 6220L - Cardiology and Pulmonology Lab Credit(s): 0.50
- Lab: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- CLS 6221 - Hematology and Oncology Credit(s): 7.00
- Lecture: 84 | Total Hours: 84
- CLS 6221T - Hematology and Oncology Tutorial Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLS 6221L - Hematology and Oncology Lab Credit(s): 0.25
- Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- CLE 6222 - Hydrotherapy Rotation Credit(s): 2.00
- Clinic: 48 | Total Hours: 48

Second-Year Winter Totals - Clinic: 48 | Tutorial: 66 | Lab: 18 | Lecture: 192 | Total Hours: 324 | Credits: 24.25

24.25

Spring

- CLS 6230 - Gastroenterology and Proctology Credit(s): 8.50
- Lecture: 102 | Total Hours: 102
- CLS 6230T - Gastroenterology and Proctology Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00
- Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLS 6230L - Gastroenterology and Proctology Lab Credit(s): 0.25
- Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- CLS 6231 - Urology and Nephrology Credit(s): 5.50
- Lecture: 66 | Total Hours: 66
- CLS 6231T - Urology and Nephrology Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00
- Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- CLS 6232 - Metabolism and Endocrinology Credit(s): 7.00
- Lecture: 84 | Total Hours: 84
- CLS 6232T - Metabolism and Endocrinology Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00
- Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36

Second-Year Spring Totals - Tutorial: 96 | Lab: 6 | Lecture: 252 | Total Hours: 354 | Credits: 29.25

Second-Year Totals - Clinic: 48 | Tutorial: 252 | Lab: 102 | Lecture: 621 | Total Hours: 1023 | Credits: 79.00



Third Year

Fall

- CLS 7310 - Reproductive Systems (Andrology, Gynecology and Natural Childbirth) Credit(s): 11.00 Lecture: 132 | Total Hours: 132
- CLS 7310T - Reproductive Systems Tutorial (Andrology, Gynecology and Natural Childbirth) Credit(s): 3.00 Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- CLS 7310L - Reproductive Systems Lab (Andrology, Gynecology and Natural Childbirth) Credit(s): 0.50 Lab: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- CLS 7311 - Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Credit(s): 4.00 Lecture: 48 | Total Hours: 48
- CLS 7311T - Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLE 7300 - Secondary Rotation Credit(s): 2.50 Clinic: 60 | Total Hours: 60
- CLE 7311 - Community Education Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24

Third-Year Fall Totals - Clinic: 60 | Tutorial: 84 | Lab: 12 | Lecture: 180 | Total Hours: 336 | Credits: 25.00

Winter

- CLS 7320 - Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat (EENT) Credit(s): 5.00 Lecture: 60 | Total Hours: 60
- CLS 7320T - Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat (EENT) Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLS 7320L - Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat (EENT) Lab Credit(s): 0.25 Lab: 6 | Total Hours: 6
- CLS 7321 - Dermatology and Minor Surgery Credit(s): 7.50 Lecture: 90 | Total Hours: 90
- CLS 7321T - Dermatology and Minor Surgery Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLS 7321L - Dermatology and Minor Surgery Lab Credit(s): 1.00 Lab: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- BUS 7320 - Business I: Human Relations Management Credit(s): 1.00 Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- CLE 7300 - Secondary Rotation Credit(s): 2.50 Clinic: 60 | Total Hours: 60

Third-Year Winter Totals - Clinic: 60 | Tutorial: 48 | Lab: 30 | Lecture: 162 | Total Hours: 300 | Credits: 21.25

Spring

- CLS 7332 - Psychology and Mental Health Credit(s): 4.00 Lecture: 48 | Total Hours: 48
- CLS 7332T - Psychology and Mental Health Tutorial Credit(s): 3.00 Tutorial: 36 | Total Hours: 36
- CLS 7330 - Pediatrics and Geriatrics Credit(s): 6.00 Lecture: 72 | Total Hours: 72
- CLS 7330T - Pediatrics and Geriatrics Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLS 7331 - Parenteral Therapy and Environmental Medicine Credit(s): 3.50 Lecture: 42 | Total Hours: 42
- CLS 7331T - Parenteral Therapy and Environmental Medicine Tutorial Credit(s): 2.00 Tutorial: 24 | Total Hours: 24
- CLS 7331L - Parenteral Therapy and Environmental Medicine Lab Credit(s): 0.50 Lab: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- BUS 7330 - Business II: Operations Management Credit(s): 1.00 Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- CLE 7300 - Secondary Rotation Credit(s): 2.50 Clinic: 60 | Total Hours: 60

Third-Year Spring Totals - Clinic: 60 | Tutorial: 84 | Lab: 12 | Lecture: 174 | Total Hours: 330 | Credits: 24.50

Third-Year Totals - Clinic: 180 | Tutorial: 216 | Lab: 54 | Lecture: 516 | Total Hours: 966 | Credits: 70.75



Fourth Year

Summer

- CLE 8400 - Primary Rotations Credit(s): 2.50 credits each (3 rotations)
- Clinic: 180 | Total Hours: 180
- BUS 8400 - Jurisprudence Credit(s): 1.00
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- CLE 8400T - Case Integration Mentorship Tutorial I Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLE 8401 - Community Experience (ComEx) Preceptorship Credit(s): 5.00 ***
- Clinic: 120 | Total Hours: 120
- Electives Credit(s): 3.00 *
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36

Fourth-Year Summer Totals - Clinic: 300 | Tutorial: 18 | Lecture: 48 | Total Hours: 366 | Credits: 18.00

Fall

- CLE 8400 - Primary Rotations Credit(s): 2.50 credits each (3 rotations)
- Clinic: 180 | Total Hours: 180
- CLE 8411 - Grand Rounds Credit(s): 1.50
- Lecture: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLE 8410T - Case Integration Mentorship Tutorial II Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- BUS 8410 - Business III: Portfolio and Development Credit(s): 1.00
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- Electives Credit(s): 3.00 *
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36

Fourth-Year Fall Totals - Clinic: 180 | Tutorial: 18 | Lecture: 66 | Total Hours: 312 | Credits: 14.50

Winter

- CLE 8400 - Primary Rotations Credit(s): 2.50 credits each (3 rotations)
- Clinic: 180 | Total Hours: 180
- CLE 8421 - Grand Rounds Credit(s): 1.50
- Lecture: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLE 8420T - Case Integration Mentorship Tutorial III Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- BUS 8420 - Business IV: Business Plan Development Credit(s): 1.00
- Lecture: 12 | Total Hours: 12
- Electives Credit(s): 4.00 *
- Lecture: 48 | Total Hours: 48

Fourth-Year Winter Totals - Clinic: 180 | Tutorial: 18 | Lecture: 78 | Total Hours: 276 | Credits: 15.50

Spring

- CLE 8400 - Primary Rotations Credit(s): 2.50 credits each (4 rotations) **
- Clinic: 240 | Total Hours: 240
- CLE 8431 - Grand Rounds Credit(s): 1.50
- Lecture: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLE 8430T - Case Integration Mentorship Tutorial IV Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- BUS 8430 - Business V: Capstone Credit(s): 1.50
- Tutorial: 18 | Total Hours: 18
- CLE 8432 - Community Experience (ComEx) Preceptorship Credit(s): 4.00 ***
- Clinic: 96 | Total Hours: 96
- Electives Credit(s): 3.00 *
- Lecture: 36 | Total Hours: 36

Fourth-Year Spring Totals - Clinic: 336 | Tutorial: 36 | Lecture: 54 | Total Hours: 426 | Credits: 21.50

Fourth-Year Totals - Clinic: 996 | Tutorial: 90 | Lecture: 246 | Total Hours: 1380 | Credits: 69.50*

Program Totals - Clinic: 1264 | Tutorial: 762 | Lab: 306 | Lecture: 2077 | Total Hours: 4457 | Credits: 302.00



September 29, 2021

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry: SB 532 Public Hearing

Thank you, Senator Felzkowski and committee members for the opportunity to present today.

I am here to ask for your help.

My name is Chad Oler, and I am a Naturopathic Doctor.

I'm asking that you help to amend SB 532 to grandfather in all established naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin.

During my testimony today, I'm going to provide you information that I believe will help you understand why amending this bill is not only the right thing to do, but it also aligns with your efforts to improve and protect natural healthcare providers in this state.

I have been working with the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association – who have drafted this piece legislation – for the past 3 years to include grandfathering language into this bill. As the bill is currently written, I would be grandfathered into this licensing effort albeit in a limited capacity.

I received my Doctor of Naturopathy degree from the University of Natural Medicine in Santa Fe, NM, which entailed 4110 hours of training. Prior to attending graduate school, I received my BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an emphasis in biochemistry and worked in Research and Development for several years.

Over the past 21 years, I've worked with over 6000 clients and have taught continuing education courses to approximately 10,000 health care providers – including medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine, naturopathic doctors, nurse practitioners, chiropractors and other allied health professionals on how they could incorporate naturopathic principles and therapies into their clinical practices.

I absolutely love what I do and take great pride in being as informed as I possibly can about how we can leverage naturopathic therapies to help the body heal.

Unfortunately, I must speak against this bill for the following reason: **this bill unfairly and unnecessarily, prohibits many of my colleagues which are qualified, established practitioners from continuing to practice as naturopathic doctors in the state of WI.**

This has been *tremendously* difficult for me; I am here speaking *against* a bill that could provide me the license and scope of practice that I've wanted since I went to graduate school. However, I cannot support this piece of legislation when so many of my colleagues

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are being arbitrarily excluded. To do so would go against everything that I try to teach my kids – that is, to do what is right, rather than doing what is easy.

Now, to put this in the proper context, I'd like to provide a little background information. The practice of naturopathy, which is also called natural medicine, encompasses numerous *natural* – which is to say non-pharmaceutical and non-surgical - health practices that are intended to identify and remove obstacles to health, while providing the body the resources it needs to heal and function properly.

Webster's dictionary defines naturopathy as *a system of treatment of disease that avoids drugs and surgery and emphasizes the use of natural agents (such as air, water, and herbs) and physical means (such as tissue manipulation and electrotherapy).*

From its inception in the 1800s, the practice of naturopathy was a drugless practice, and there was a distinct division between the practice of medicine and the practice of naturopathy.

Over the years, the education and scope of naturopathic practitioners has become more diverse. Many schools continue to focus primarily on complementary and alternative medicine, while in the last several decades other schools have started incorporating more of the medical sciences and diagnostic techniques typical of conventional medicine. Naturally, this has led to discussions and debates within the naturopathic community about the "true" definition of a naturopathic practice, and what or who constitutes a "naturopathic doctor".

This split caused the formation of several different accreditation bodies for naturopathic education, including the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) which accredits naturopathic schools that incorporate conventional medicine into their naturopathic curriculum.

There are currently only four CNME-accredited naturopathic medical schools in the United States (Bastyr University (WA & CA), National University of Health Sciences (IL), Natural University of Natural Medicine (OR) and Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine & Health Sciences (AZ)) with 2 additional schools in Canada. **Only graduates from these schools would be eligible for full licensure under the current bill.**

However, there are other accreditation bodies for schools that train naturopathic doctors - including the American Naturopathic Medical Accreditation Board (ANMAB) and the American Association of Drugless Practitioners - and there are *over a dozen* schools accredited by these agencies. **Under the current bill, almost *none* of the graduates from these schools would be eligible for licensure in Wisconsin.**

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This bill ignores the fact that most of these graduates actually have *equivalent or more* training in naturopathic therapeutics, including nutrition, than those that would be eligible for licensure in this bill. While it is true that graduates from CNME-accredited schools have more training in medical modalities, their degree is the same, which is a “Doctor of Naturopathy”, NOT a “Doctor of Medicine”.

In essence, this bill is attempting to redefine the practice of naturopathy in Wisconsin to specifically *include* the practice of medicine, and in so doing, is specifically designed to EXCLUDE all current naturopathic practitioners who do not, and do not wish to, practice medicine. This is simply unfair and negates the years of education, dedication, and service these providers have given to their clients and communities.

In addition, based on conversations that I've had with practitioners across the state, this bill – as it is currently written - would unduly harm at least as many practicing naturopathic doctors in the state as it would benefit.

Just so we're clear about how many people that is, the WNDAL lists 24 naturopaths that would be eligible to apply for a license under this bill. I have personally contacted or spoken with at least that many naturopathic doctors in the state that would be *prohibited* from using their current title – “naturopathic doctor “– and current designation – “N.D.” – should this bill pass as it stands.

Now, I've heard proponents of this bill say that it will not prohibit current naturopathic doctors from practicing and that it simply involves them making a title change. **But as much as we'd all like to think that a title doesn't matter – it does, especially when one has been legally using that title for many years.**

I understand why the drafters of this bill want to be recognized for the time and effort they've dedicated to their education and profession, and I support that goal.

I want to be licensed. I want to be able to incorporate everything I've learned into my clinical practice so I can provide the absolute best care I can to my clients. But not like this.

Based on all the work that you have done to help protect the rights of natural health care providers in this state, I don't believe this is in alignment with your views.

A small group exclusively assuming a professional title that many qualified practitioners have been legally using their entire careers is wrong. Yet that is exactly what this legislation is proposing.

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There's one final clarification I'd like to make; I heard it mentioned earlier that there are currently 22 states (along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands) that license or register naturopathic doctors. However, what was not mentioned is that ***the requirements, provisions and scope of practice outlined within these licensing bills varies dramatically.***

This bill (SB532) is modeled after those states in which these few naturopathic medical schools reside (OR, WA, AZ) – which means it lays out the *broadest and most exclusionary* scope of practice for licensed naturopathic doctors anywhere in North America. However, *most* naturopathic licensing legislation that has passed in other states is not nearly as restrictive as the language outlined in this bill.

We can make this work for everyone, and I believe the solution is very straightforward.

It would entail amending this bill to first, establish grandfathering language that allows current naturopathic doctors to continue practicing *within the scope of their education and training*, which allows them to continue practicing with the title “naturopathic doctor” and the designation of “N.D.”.

And second, to establish a standard for licensure *at a designated time in the future* that provides the exclusive educational and scope of practice provisions outlined in this bill.

I believe this compromise makes sense for several reasons:

- 1) First, it allows current providers that have been practicing safely within this state to continue serving their community.
- 2) Second, it provides those currently in graduate school sufficient notice to complete and/or modify their studies so that they can practice within the state upon graduation.
- 3) And third, it provides a new standard of what it means to be a “naturopathic doctor” in the state, with sufficient notice moving forward, that would provide the drafters of this bill the recognition and scope of practice they desire.

This seems to be a commonsense approach that is a win for all involved.

Please consider helping to amend this legislation so that all current naturopathic doctors in this state can continue the great work that they do serving the people of Wisconsin.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Chad Oler, ND

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September 29, 2021

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry: Thank you Senators Bernier, Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of Senate Bill 532 along with Rep. Jesse Rodriguez.

My name is Dr. Aaron Henkel and I am a Naturopathic doctor. I have a clinic here in Madison that includes 3 naturopathic doctors, 1 midwife, 1 medical doctor, nurses, phlebotomists, and 8 other office staff. Our clinic sees over 12,000 patient contacts per year. We have patients with a broad array of conditions including autoimmune conditions, hormone imbalances, pain syndromes, insomnia, mood issues and cancer.

I believe that our Family Clinic of Natural Medicine is a great model for other clinics that will emerge and serve patients all over Wisconsin when we obtain licensure to do so. We have patients that drive from Green Bay and other far-reaches of Wisconsin because we are one of the only independent clinics that function like this. Because we have an MD as our medical director, we can provide our patients the best of both worlds - conventional medicine that might include prescriptions, blood work, and imaging, as well as science-based, research-driven natural therapies like diet and lifestyle counseling, supplements and IV therapy. We are able to do this for a fraction of what people would have to pay for a visit to a regular medical clinic. Unfortunately, many cannot drive 2-3 hours and need closer-to-home options that would undoubtedly rise up when we are able to get licensed and have needed safety nets like malpractice insurance, or a medical review board. Also, our waiting list is very long which speaks to the current need in Wisconsin

I decided to attend a 4-year naturopathic medical school after having gone to a traditional lay naturopath with my own health problems after years of trying all that conventional medicine had to offer. After this naturopath was able to help me change my life and get my health back, I told her I wanted to do what she did. She told me that Wisconsin would eventually require licensure and therefore I should go to a licensable naturopathic school. I chose Bastyr University in Seattle, graduating in 2005, and Washington is where I continue to hold my license. As I have chatted with various naturopaths, some of whom you have just heard, we have discussed the eventual reality of licensure. 22 years ago, I could have done a correspondence school online, skipped a bunch of really tough classes like pharmacology, cadaver lab, biochemistry and clinical laboratory diagnosis and paid a small fee to get my "ND" degree. In fact, anybody in this room could call themselves a naturopathic doctor because nobody is regulating our type of medicine in Wisconsin. But I, along with others you have heard from, made the sacrifice to get our undergrad degree, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to go to advanced, in-person schooling for another 4-6 years. We have shared with you previously copies of our exact curriculum as well as shown you how our hours track or exceed a four year conventional medical school program. Now that the reality of licensure in Wisconsin is upon us, a small group of people are working hard to keep us from being able to practice as doctors. They aren't trained, nor do they practise the way that we do. It is erroneous to say we will put them out of work. This simply is not going to happen. Our bill allows them to do exactly what they were allowed to do before while also leaving common names in the public domain such as naturopath, traditional naturopath, or lay naturopath while we use the title Naturopathic doctor. This allows the public to clearly know the distinction between two different groups with vastly different training and allows them to choose either group with confidence, knowing what they are getting. If they continue to use the term doctor, they would be misleading the public into an assumed level of expertise that should go with the title of doctor. This legislation is tailored after 24 other states that already recognize this.

This opposition we face is similar to the type of unwarranted resistance and misinformation that Chiropractors faced in the 1950's through the 1980's and now we all understand the importance and benefit of having them as a choice. It is interesting with their history then, that some chiropractic individuals would now be turning and doing the same thing to us.



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I recently had a woman come to see me with advanced breast cancer. She had been seeing a correspondence-trained naturopath for many years. When she finally came to me, she revealed that this "doctor" had continued giving her supplements and as her breast lesion opened up, just told her that she was detoxifying and should give it more time. Because of my medical training, I was able to tell her that first, and most importantly, she needed to seek an oncologist's opinion. Unfortunately, it was too late for this woman to get a simple lumpectomy and possibly save her life. We have all heard of cases like this. For this reason, people in Wisconsin need to understand the difference between my training and a traditional naturopath's training so that they can make educated decisions. As I said before, I saw a traditional naturopath 22 years ago and they do a wonderful job of teaching and helping their clients and so I am glad this bill allows them to continue that. But there needs to be a distinction so that our patients, as well as the many medical doctors and health professionals that we regularly collaborate with, all know the actual levels of training that we have.

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience. I'd be happy to answer any questions.



Wisconsin Medical Society

TO: Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
Senator Mary Felzkowski, Chair

FROM: Mark Grapentine, JD – Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer

DATE: September 29, 2021

RE: 2021 Senate Bill 532

On behalf of nearly 10,000 physician members statewide, thank you for this opportunity to share our impressions on 2021 Senate Bill 532, which relates to the licensure and regulation of naturopaths. The Society **opposes** the bill in its current form.

Naturopaths wishing to regulate their profession is an understandable goal on its face, especially considering that this area of health care is currently unregulated in Wisconsin – although it is worth noting that the practice of naturopathy is illegal in Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee¹. The bill as drafted, however, asks much more than simply establishing a regulatory board and associated structures – it attempts to define the practice of naturopathy so broadly as to be similar to the level of primary care our state’s physicians provide to Wisconsin patients. The two professions should not be conflated; the Society believes that any portions of the bill attempting to blend the two professions should be eliminated before the bill is allowed to move forward.

This effort to create a sense of similarity between naturopathy and the practice of medicine is not unique to Wisconsin. State legislatures across the country continue to review and most oftentimes reject proposals that include elements of the proposal that is in front of this committee. For a summary of various efforts across the nation we encourage you to read [this article](#)² from *Science-Based Medicine*.

Prescribing

Senate Bill 532 would create significant prescribing authority for naturopaths – including the ability to prescribe legend drugs as potentially-addictive as non-narcotic Schedule III drugs – and would put Wisconsin in the very small minority of states allowing this level of prescribing. According to the latest research from the American Academy of Family Physicians (attached to this cover memo), just three states – New Hampshire, New Mexico and Washington State – stray into this area, and even then are limited to specific drugs and “natural medications.”

There are significant questions whether naturopathic education provides enough relevant education and training to warrant the granting of these prescribing privileges. In 2016 the Connecticut State Legislature created a special study committee to explore whether naturopaths in their state should be allowed to prescribe prescription drugs. The study committee report by the Connecticut Department of Public

¹ <https://www.anma.org/anma-legislation-alerts>

² <https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/legislative-alchemy-undaunted-by-rejection-in-2020-naturopaths-return-to-state-legislatures-seeking-licensing-and-practice-expansion/>

Health³ included a letter (page 109 of the document footnoted below) from a broad coalition of physician and nursing groups who participated in the study group strongly opposing prescribing authority:

Naturopaths trained in this state, or any state, do not have sufficient education and training at this time to safely prescribe the medications they have requested. They do not have the scientific foundation, nor even the commitment to evidence-based therapy that must be the cornerstone of all practice, let alone practice that involves risk to life and limb. Whether they can at some point achieve such capability is open to question and depends to a large degree on attitudinal changes they may or may not be prepared to undertake. Our position at the end of the last meeting was that we are committed to working more closely in collaboration with the naturopaths in ways that will enhance the skills that are unique to each of our groups and constructively toward the effort to achieve a degree preparation sufficient to allow for safe prescriptive authority, but we have not endorsed a specific pathway or time scale under which this may be undertaken. We are united in this position, which we take very seriously and which we hold on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut who deserve only the very best.

Future Prescribing Scope

Senate Bill 532 would take future decision-making about naturopathy scope of practice away from the state legislature and instead fully offload those powers to the newly created regulatory board (p. 18, lines 4-10). We have seen similar efforts in other legislative proposals this biennium, also in the area of non-physician health care professions that wish to expand scope while purporting to be a primary care provider equivalent to physicians. As direct representatives of the people they are elected to serve, we believe the state Legislature should retain the proactive ability to review future scope of practice proposals to ensure the public is protected and best served.

Titling and Definitions

Words most people associate with physician-based care include “doctor,” “medicine” and the like. Senate Bill 532 uses these and other terms too generically, again in an attempt to promote a sense of equivalency between naturopaths and physicians.

For example, here is the statutory definition of the “practice of medicine and surgery” in ch. 448 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which contain physician-related law:

- (9)** “Practice of medicine and surgery” means:
 - (a)** To examine into the fact, condition or cause of human health or disease, or to treat, operate, prescribe or advise for the same, by any means or instrumentality.
 - (b)** To apply principles or techniques of medical sciences in the diagnosis or prevention of any of the conditions described in par. (a) and in sub. (2).
 - (c)** To penetrate, pierce or sever the tissues of a human being.
 - (d)** To offer, undertake, attempt or do or hold oneself out in any manner as able to do any of the acts described in this subsection.

And here is SB 532’s proposed definition of “naturopathic medicine”:

- (6)** (a) “Naturopathic medicine” means, except as provided in par. (b), a system of primary health care for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health

³ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/practitioner_licensing_and_investigations/scope_of_practice_2017/02172017NaturopathReportFINALrevisedpdf.pdf

conditions, injury, and disease; the promotion or restoration of health; and the support and stimulation of a patient's inherent self-healing processes through patient education and the use of naturopathic therapies and therapeutic substances[.]

The Society opposes such a definition as it is far too broad for the level of education and required training for those providing naturopathic services. Those who practice "medicine" as related to state statutes are individuals who have gone to medical school, received their degree and have merited the ability to be a practicing physician.

Similarly, the title "physician" is also defined in ch. 448:

(5) "Physician" means an individual possessing the degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy or an equivalent degree as determined by the medical examining board, and holding a license granted by the medical examining board.

Along these lines, the Society requests amendments altering titles and terminology throughout the bill that mimic the long-standing protected definitions in ch. 448:

- "Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board" (sec. 1 of the bill and subsequent references)
- References to "naturopathic medical doctor" and "naturopathic physician" (secs. 15, 16)
- References to "naturopathic medicine" (secs. 32, 35, 40)
- The title of the new ch. 466, "Naturopathic Medicine" (sec. 40)
- "Naturopathic physical medicine" (sec. 40, p. 15)
- The title "doctor of naturopathic medicine" or use of letters "N.M.D" or "NMD" (sec. 40, p.16)

The Society requests that the committee amend SB 532 to address the above concerns. Thank you for your consideration.



SCOPE OF PRACTICE – NATUROPATHS

AAFP Position

The AAFP [believes](#) that naturopathic theory and practice are not based upon knowledge widely accepted by the scientific community. Naturopathic education does not prepare practitioners to properly and accurately diagnose or provide appropriate treatment, safely or effectively prescribe medications, perform physicals for school or employment, or perform surgical procedures. The AAFP opposes the expansion of naturopaths' scope of practice in states that provide licensing for naturopaths. In states that do permit licensure of naturopaths, the Academy opposes any expansion of their scope of practice that is not supported by naturopathic education and training. A naturopath must not be allowed, under any circumstances, to use the title "physician," nor should a naturopath be considered a "primary care physician."

Education and Training

There are significant differences between family physicians and naturopaths in both training and education. Family physicians receive their education through a four-year degree program at one of the 192 accredited allopathic or osteopathic medical schools in the United States. Students must pass the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) for entrance into medical school and spend nearly 9,000 hours in lectures, clinical study, lab, and direct patient care.

Most family medicine residency programs require three years of clinical training and have specific requirements that must be met, such as a demonstrated competency in diagnosis and management and direct experiences in patient care, before students are eligible for board certification. Residency programs are designed to provide integrated experiences in ambulatory, community and inpatient environments over three years of concentrated study and hands-on training.

Naturopathic education is completed through a four-year degree program that confers a Doctor in Naturopathy (ND) or Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine (NMD). Currently, there are only seven naturopathic education institutions in the United States. These schools do not require an entrance exam, such as the MCAT or Graduate Records Examination (GRE), for admission.

Naturopathic instruction totals 4,100 hours which includes coursework in areas such as homeopathy, botanical medicine, and psychology and requires at least 1,200 hours of clinical education, with a minimum of 850 hours in direct patient care. Graduates of naturopathic degree programs are not required to undergo the same post-graduate residency training expected of medical school graduates; however, some naturopathic institutions offer an optional one-year residency program.

Regulation and Scope of Practice

The regulation of the practice of naturopathy varies from state to state. Florida, South Carolina, and Tennessee explicitly prohibit the practice of naturopathy,¹ while 22 states and DC have laws that license naturopaths.² To receive a license to practice naturopathic medicine in those states, naturopaths are required to graduate from an accredited four-year residential naturopathic school and

¹ American Naturopathic Certification Board. (2021). "Review of State Laws Regulating Naturopathy." Web.

² American Association of Naturopathic Physicians. (2021). "Regulated States and Regulatory Authorities." Web.

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The Honorable Judy Lee
North Dakota State Senator for the 13th District
Chair of the Human Services Committee

Re: Bill to Amend the Scope of Practice for Naturopathic in North Dakota (SB 2274)

SB 2274 Endangers Patients

January 29, 2021

Dear Senator Lee,

My name is Britt Marie Hermes. In 2011, I graduated from Bastyr University (an accredited naturopathic medical school) with a doctorate in naturopathic medicine. I passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX) and completed a competitive, one-year residency in family medicine and pediatrics at a naturopathic clinic in Seattle. I remained in naturopathic practice until 2014.

My mother was raised in Moorhead, MN on a beet farm. She attended Moorhead University and then moved west to California after marrying my father. I grew up in California, but I consider both Minnesota and North Dakota to be my second homes. I spent nearly every summer fishing on Cotton Lake in Detroit Lakes and having slumber parties with my cousins on the patio of my grandmother's Fargo apartment. I have many family members in North Dakota; the flower girl from my wedding lives in Watford City and my favorite aunt still resides in Bismarck. When I learned that naturopaths were attempting to expand their scope of practice in North Dakota to include prescription rights, I wanted to contact you immediately and share my story. I would never recommend that any of my family members or friends seek naturopathic medical care for any medical condition, and certainly not for primary care.

I watched my colleague, Elizabeth Allmendinger, spearhead the political movement to get naturopaths licensed in North Dakota in 2011 from Bastyr's classrooms. I remember the excitement I felt about North Dakota "gaining licensure." With so much of my family still residing in the Midwest, the hypothetical possibility of practicing near family was an enticing fantasy. North Dakota passed legislation right before we graduated and I watched Elizabeth travel back home to fulfill her dream of practicing naturopathic medicine in her home state, while I went on to fulfill my dream of practicing in a pediatric clinic.

Sadly, it did not take much time for my dreams to come crashing down around me. During my brief time in practice as a naturopath, I witnessed dangerous, illegal, and unethical naturopathic practices from licensed naturopathic doctors who graduated from accredited schools. I had previously believed that only the "fake-NDs" who earned online degrees engaged in menacing medical practices, such as intravenous hydrogen peroxide therapy for the treatment of cancer or chronic disease. In reality, an abundant number of licensed naturopaths from accredited universities use dubious diagnostic

A patient care rotation is scheduled in 4-hour shifts, once per week, for an 11-week quarter. One of these four hours is spent discussing patient cases and information on every shift. Only three hours are spent in patient care, reducing the total numbers of hours spent in "direct patient contact" down to 561 hours. Clinical training on patient care shifts encompassed debunked medical theories, pseudoscience, energy medicine like homeopathy, the laying of hands, hydrotherapy like colon irrigation, physical medicine like chiropractic adjustments, and yes, some primary care concepts. However, the primary care training is diluted with the sheer amount of experimental medical practices and quackery.

Pharmacology:

BC 6305 Pharmacology for ND Students: "pharmacology for the ND student population"

- 55 lecture hours in one course
- No additional pharmacology training provided in other courses
- Minimal, if any, additional pharmacology training provided in clinical training hours

My clinical training included such a small amount of pharmacological experience that it hardly seems worth mentioning. I spent far more time learning how to write a prescription for botanical medicines than how to prescribe appropriate pharmaceutical medications. I specifically befriended a pharmacist at a local pharmacy in Seattle so I could ask questions about drugs, dosages, interactions, and protocols.

Standards of Care and Public Health:

Of note, there are no naturopathic standards of care. Students and residents at Bastyr University have compiled documents explaining the diagnosis and treatments for a variety of diseases, which are available to students and faculty on the university's online portal. A review of these documents reveals a large degree of untamed variability that is reflected in naturopathic medicine. For example, the entry on angina includes a variety of treatment options: nutrient therapy with selenium, CoQ10, magnesium, and niacin; limiting fat intake, removing sucrose, alcohol and caffeine from the diet; botanical medicine doses of ginger, ginkgo biloba, aconite, and bromelain; at home exercises; recommendations to address a type A personality; a detoxification diet; colon hydrotherapy; castor oil packs; food allergy elimination; juice fasts; hormone replacement therapy; lifestyle changes; and monitoring of uric acid levels. Of the documents I've reviewed, all fail to mention any standard of care, which for some conditions, at a minimum should include an immediate referral to the emergency room or medical specialist. I know it sounds cynical, but naturopathic medical care is like picking treatments out of a magical hat.

The theme of not making firm clinical or public health recommendations rooted in science is apparent in the profession's position papers. Most notably, the AANP position paper on vaccinations does not mention any vaccine schedule specifically nor does the paper recommend an adherence to any standard of care regarding immunizations. The paper instead clearly leaves room open for exemptions and custom inoculation schedules between parents and practitioners "within the range of options provided by state law." Since many states have major loopholes in public health law regarding vaccine exemptions, this statement basically means vaccinate as you like or even not at

It is my opinion, that naturopathic "doctors" or "physicians" are not qualified to practice primary care. Yet, I hope that my description of the clinical training provided by Bastyr propels this claim closer to the realm of fact. I find it extremely troubling to have been the victim of so many layers of deceit: from naturopathic medical school promotional material, the education and clinical training, the AANP's political efforts, and information promulgated by my former naturopathic peers, colleagues, and elders. I sincerely hope that I can help shed light on the truth, which is why I decided to start my own blog (www.naturopathicdiaries.com).

In short, naturopathic clinical training is not on-par with medical or osteopathic doctors and is in fact far less, in terms of quantity and quality--also less than nurse practitioners and physician's assistants. Of the hours that Bastyr provided to me and my classmates in purported primary care training (748 hours), one quarter of this time was spent in case preview and review. The remaining 75% (561 hours) contained dubious diagnostics and experimental treatments that were so embedded within a pseudo-medical practice that the student clinician loses the ability to assess what is truth and what is make-believe. When homeopathic remedies are presented on the same level as antibiotic treatment, the naturopathic student is lost, and I don't blame them.

I think it is quite apparent that the 561 hours of what I calculated to be "direct patient contact" in clinical training are nothing of the sort that would instill confidence in anyone that naturopathic education can produce competent primary care providers. There is no way that such training produces better health care that is affordable or efficacious than what is currently available. Yet, this is exactly the rhetoric fed to federal and state lawmakers about naturopathic medicine, and it is wrong.

I recognize that it is a common position of governing bodies to promote freedom of choice. And by that logic, it is easy to license naturopaths, expand their scope of practice, and state that you are allowing citizens to make their own decisions regarding who is providing primary health care to them and their families. However, granting naturopaths an expanded scope of practice that includes prescription rights provides the false illusion to North Dakotans that they are choosing between equally qualified health care physicians. I graduated from naturopathic medical school with a meager amount of pharmacology training taught in a lecture format and not in a clinical setting. Any naturopath claiming to be adequately qualified in prescribing drugs, without having sought extensive training outside of naturopathic medical school, is simply regurgitating lies from their governing organization.

If naturopaths are going to continue to argue that their scope of practice should reflect their training, then they need to accept that their scope of practice should be severely dialed back or they need to conduct a massive overhaul of their training, as the DOs did in the 1970s. Furthermore, naturopaths are not required to complete residencies (except for those practicing in Utah who need one year of residency), which is where any physician will argue the real practice of medicine is learned over the course of a multiple-year residency in a teaching hospital.

Realistically, if I were to practice naturopathic medicine according to my training at Bastyr, I honestly do not even know what I would be qualified to do.

Please do not support SB 2274 to expand the scope of practice for naturopathic "physicians" in North Dakota. Please continue to limit the scope of naturopaths that is



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

21 more companies warned about questionable COVID claims

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Lesley Fair
Apr 24, 2020

TAGS: [Bureau of Consumer Protection](#) | [Consumer Protection](#) | [Advertising and Marketing](#) | [Health Claims](#)

FTC staff just sent [21 more warning letters](#) to companies that have used allegedly unsubstantiated coronavirus prevention and treatment claims to promote products and services. Many of the [latest letters](#) focus on questionable representations for high doses of vitamins, intravenous treatments, ozone, and purported stem cell therapies.

Abundant Life Wellness Center. The Florida business has said its Zyto biofeedback software system can “scan individuals for a customized homeopathic dilution for the Coronavirus.” According to the company, “This means that if you are exposed to the virus and you are taking your customized homeopathic dilution, you could present with less or no symptoms than if you were not taking it.”

Vidaful Medicine. On its website, the Pennsylvania company has linked to articles about “Coronavirus Prevention with High Dose Vitamin C IV” and has recommended its own IV therapy as a preventive measure “for anyone potentially exposed” to coronavirus.

Liquivida Lounge. According to FTC staff, the Fort Lauderdale company has claimed that Vitamin C – which it sells – “may both prevent the infection and treat it in patients who already have it.”

RowenSu Clinic. The warning letter to the California clinic cites statements that have appeared on its website touting ozone therapy – which it markets – as a “Cost[] Effective Treatment for Coronavirus.” In addition, the company has claimed that coronavirus may “have a soft underbelly” that is “easily and safely exploitable with ozone-related services.”

Personalhealthshop.com. The company has sold elderberry products, including gummies, by making claims like this on its website: “Elderberry Vs Corona Virus. Elderberry is an antiviral. It prevents the virus from replicating in the body, so you want to take it early and often if you start feeling symptoms. Once a day for prevention, four times if you start feeling sick . . . most importantly [elderberry] is high in zinc . . . ZINC + CHLOROQUINE has shown positive results against Covid19”

Prana IV Therapy. The warning letter cites statements the Arizona company has made on its website that “most recently among hospitals in China during the outbreak of Covid-19 . . . [a]ll patents who received IVC improved and there was no mortality. . . . It’s with this data in mind that we crafted our Super Immunity Blast IV.” The letter also mentions claims the company had made on Facebook and Instagram through a consumer testimonial.

REVIV. According to the letter, Miami-based REVIV has stated that consumers can “[h]elp protect and prevent again . . . the Coronavirus with a REVIV Megaboost IV Therapy containing a high dose of Vitamin C.” The website also has

TRULYHEAL Pty. Ltd. The Australian business has promoted its products by claiming, "Ozone plays a fundamental role in the treatment of viral infections including the Coronavirus (COVID-19) . . ." According to the company, "To prevent and protect the body from a coronavirus infection at HOME with ozone, it is administered via rectal insufflation," and it's "the easiest, most inexpensive, safe, and effective protection solution that everyone should have available to them, their family and loves ones."

The warning letters remind recipients that under the FTC Act, it's illegal to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure a disease unless the company has competent and reliable scientific evidence to support what they say – which may mean well-controlled human clinical studies. Furthermore, "For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist" for the products and services cited in the letters. FTC staff expects to hear back from the companies within 48 hours with a description of the specific actions the recipients have taken to address the concerns.



ftc.gov



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
 PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

The letters of the law: 35 more companies warned about questionable COVID claims

Share This Page

Lesley Fair
 Jun 4, 2020

TAGS: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | [Bureau of Consumer Protection](#) | [Consumer Protection](#) | [Advertising and Marketing](#) | [Health Claims](#)

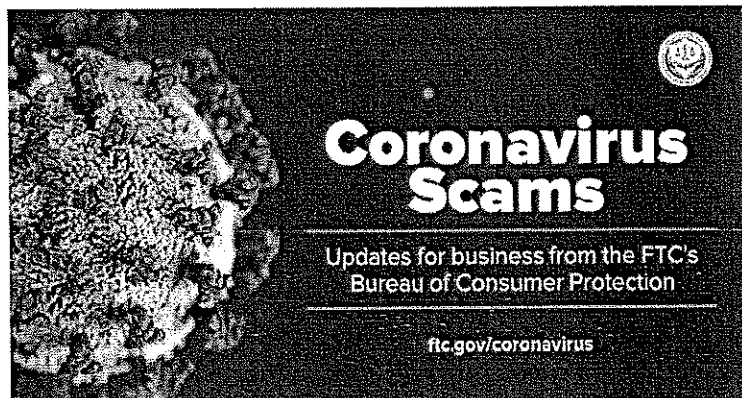
FTC staff sent [the latest round of warning letters to 35 businesses](#) alleged to have made unsubstantiated coronavirus prevention or treatment claims. What they sold diverges widely – IV vitamin treatments, products containing silver, patches purporting to block electromagnetic radiation, etc. – but they have one thing in common: According to the FTC, their claims aren't supported by sound science. Here are the companies that received the [letters](#).

Arizona Natural Medicine Physicians. On a webpage titled *Coronavirus: Supplements, Herbs & Homeopathic Remedies*, the office claimed to offer “homeopathic injections such as Engystol which helps support immune function and prevent infection.”

Bixa Human. On its website, the company pitched products it sold – including BioBija Complex and Victoria T3 – as “the best way to boost your immunity and protect yourself from the coronavirus.”

Bodhi Glyphix. In Facebook posts, the New York business promoted the sale of products it sold by stating, “Our Silver Biotic Formula is patented and has studies showing it's effective against covid viruses.”

Brexo Bio. The California company claimed on YouTube and Facebook that its stem cell treatments “can be administered intravenously and by inhalation through a nebulizer to treat lung damage caused by COVID-19”



Cho Acupuncture. For consumers who are “[e]xperiencing respiratory problems (Coronavirus) and need treatment,” the Georgia business claimed to “provide herbal medicine that will help with this virus. There are now several case studies that are being treated by the herbal medicine in China. These cases have had great success in getting over the virus.”

Cory's SEOM. In promoting a product called Virus Killer, the California business stated, “One of the essential oils in our mix has already been proven in medical testing to kill the SARS virus, which is a subset of the Corona Virus. We

Hot Springs BioFeedback. Under the heading “Diagnosed with COVID-19? I’ve got the answer! I’m in total recovery!,” the Texarkana, Texas, business recommended products containing silver. According to the company, silver “binds to the DNA of the virus-cell, preventing it from multiplying” and “prevent[s] the transfer of the virus from one person to another by blocking the ability of the virus to find a host cell to feed on.”

Innovation Compounding. In marketing materials titled *Coronavirus: Is High-Dose Vitamin C the Answer?*, the Georgia company promoted its Vitamin C infusions by stating, “China is conducting a clinical trial of 24,000 mg/day of intravenous vitamin C to treat patients with coronavirus and severe respiratory complications. . . .”

Julie E. Health. The Redondo Beach, California, business promoted its Corona Virus Prevention and Treatment Kit, which included EMF (electromagnetic radiation) Blocking Patches and supplements. According to the company, the kit is “your first line of defense nutritionally speaking to prevent the corona virus.”

KimberTouch Technologies. In online marketing materials titled *Professionals Are Here – Real Protocol for Coronavirus*, the company promoted an “anti-viral protocol” consisting of Vitamin C, silver, silver nasal wash, and oxygen.

Love Acupuncture. In promoting products as “Alternative treatments for COVID-19 (coronavirus),” the Oregon business stated, “[T]he Chinese government distributed Chinese herbal medicine to everyone with covid-19 in the hospital” and “yielded a 94% improvement rate” The company added, “While we are not allowed to say these herbs treat COVID-19[,] what we can tell you is that these preventative formulas are being used in China and the reports are showing a positive difference.”

Natural Health 365. In marketing materials titled *Consider Vitamin C for acute respiratory distress syndrome from COVID-19*, *Medical Journal* says, the Florida company promoted its products by claiming “Doctors recommend high dose vitamin C as potential treatment for COVID-19 sufferers, backed by decades of scientific research” and “High-dose glutathione shows promise in addressing respiratory distress in patients with COVID-19.”

Nutritional Healing Center of Ann Arbor. The office featured a video titled *Immune Supplement Bundles* that stated, “In the last few weeks and months, there’s a very scary virus that everybody’s talking about. And in the medical research, I have found at least twenty different nutrients, herbs, and vitamins that kill this virus.” The video promoted a variety of products sold by the Center, including ones called The Guard Dog package and The Sheriff.

Organic Hawaii, LLC. Using affiliate marketing links, the Honolulu business advertised “Best Natural Supplements, Vitamins, and Minerals to boost the immune system and help protect against COVID-19 coronavirus,” and linked to websites selling – among other things – liposomal Vitamin C, hemp seeds, pumpkin seeds, Lion’s Mane, Turkey Tail, elderberry syrup, and mushrooms.

Post Falls Naturopathic Clinic. The Idaho business said it has used “energetic signatures of the Coronavirus and influenza” to create Covid-19 & Flu Immune Booster, “a new homeopathic remedy to boost your immune system” and provide general immune support for colds, flu and the Coronavirus.

Pure Prescriptions, Inc. The California company urged consumers to “Do This to Help Lower Your Risk of Getting Coronavirus!” Among its recommendations was “supplementing with NewGreens,” a product for sale in its online store.

Renaissance Health Centre. To promote its products and services, the Las Vegas clinic claimed that “homeopaths [in China] report that the symptoms of people who get the Coronavirus point towards” the use of Gelsemium, Bryonia, Eupatorium Perf., and Thymulin 9C. The clinic also touted its intravenous hydrogen peroxide and ozone therapies.

Restore Med Clinic. In an Instagram post titled *COVID-19 What should you be doing to optimize your health?*, the clinic included a list of vitamins, but added, “Over the counter supplements and herbs are both convenient and easy, yet for a more effective protection,” it recommended “High-dose Vitamin C IV Therapy,” including “COVID-19 Immunity Boost” IV drips available at the clinic.

Revival Hydration. The San Francisco company promoted its IV vitamin therapy services by stating, “Keep Corona out with our Immunity treatment! . . . Our immunity treatment utilizes the most powerful immunity-strengthening supplements on the market.” According to the company, its treatment “Expedites Recovery exponentially” and “Makes you feel grateful your suffering period is cut in half at a minimum.”



Sarah Axtell, ND

September 29, 2021

To Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license NDs. My name is Dr. Sarah Axtell. I have been practicing for 9 years in Milwaukee, WI. I graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics and nutrition. I then earned my doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine from the fully accredited naturopathic medical college, National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), in Portland, OR. I received extensive training in natural therapeutics from some of the leading physicians in the field during my three-year clinical rotations at NUNM.

I have a private practice in Milwaukee, where we employ 7 people, including 3 naturopathic doctors. We've collectively seen 4,000+ patients, primarily focusing on lifestyle-preventable chronic health conditions, such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, autoimmune diseases, and IBS. The demand for naturopathic doctors is high here in WI. I see patients from all over the state. Most new patients wait approximately 4 months to get in to see me.

My passion with patients is using food as medicine, which is essential to our healthcare system. MDs take on average 1 nutrition course in their medical training. We, as NDs, are the experts in nutrition and addressing the root cause of chronic disease.

In Wisconsin, almost 70% of adults are either overweight or obese. It is estimated that 11 million people die worldwide every year from a bad diet.

If we don't start addressing the connection between unhealthy food and health, it's going to destroy our economy, too. In the US, the annual healthcare cost of obesity-related illness is estimated to be almost 200 billion dollars.

Naturopathic medicine is a cost-effective solution to this health care and economic crisis.

I am currently licensed in the state of Oregon as a primary care physician. Licensing naturopathic doctors in WI will help to mitigate current shortages of primary care practitioners.

Licensure will also help protect the public from misinformation about complementary and alternative therapies that is ubiquitous on the internet, in the media, in health food stores, and from practitioners who do not meet the educational standards to be called a naturopathic doctor.

As NDs, we take time with patients; we listen; and we inspire them to lead healthier lives, always integrating diet and lifestyle as primary treatment modalities. We ensure patient safety with our expert knowledge of drug/nutrient/botanical interactions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Axtell, ND". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Axtell, ND

Yahara Therapy, LLC

Phone: 608-692-8794

Fax: 877-247-6817

susan@yaharatherapy.com

www.yaharatherapy.com

State of WI License # 12338-24 (PT) and #3580-146 (MT)

Tax ID# 46-3067908

Senate Hearing Date: 29 September 2021

- *Greetings Senate Committee, Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate. Special thanks to Senator Bernier. Thanks also to Senators Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for being co- sponsors of the bill. My name is Susan Frikken. I am a physical therapist in private practice in Madison, WI.*
- *I am here in support of Senate Bill 532 which would license Naturopathic Doctors.*
- *I have worked with Naturopathic Doctors in several ways: I have received care for chronic GI issues, anemia, and adrenal imbalance; I have been able to collaborate with and refer my own patients to NDs, and I have had the fortune to work alongside an ND in a multi-disciplinary practice, providing supportive and collaborative care to our patients. I have also been the student of an ND in professional coursework.*
- *Every ND I know treats the whole person, considering not only the complaining piece, but the entire puzzle! All body systems are considered, all realms of health: physical for sure, but also social, emotional, cultural.*
- *Licensing Naturopathic Doctors here in Wisconsin will allow more people to access primary care providers, which we desperately need. As a Doctor of Physical Therapy licensed in Wisconsin and working alongside MDs, osteopathic physicians, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, chiropractors, acupuncturists, dietitians, specialists, AND NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS--health care providers of all kinds--I know firsthand the rigorous medical training and expertise that NDs must go through. They are FULLY TRAINED medical professionals at the same level of the doctors we know: MDs and DOs. They also have an extraordinarily wide range of tools in addition to the core medical training they can use to help their patients. They order labs, prescribe medications, use their stethoscopes, look at eyes and ears, listen and discover what their patients need, and use their healing hands and minds.*
- *Rarely in mainstream health care is nutrition and diet thought about, let alone used to heal. NDs are the providers I recommend when nutrition **must** be considered, because **food** – our very sustenance—is essential. It's not a specialty referral. It's at the core of their care. I think of Wisconsin and I think homegrown and raised food; farms and gardens and herbs and flowers. We have been known for many years for our organic practices. Naturopathic medicine makes sense here!*
- *With an ND on my personal care team, I've been able to resolve and manage my health issues in a way that avoids long-term use of toxic medications. My*

patients have received pain relief and support for chronic conditions with treatments and remedies that are natural and sustainable, and tailored to them. In turn, their expert, nature-based care allows my care to be more effective.

- *I urge you to support this bill to license the Naturopathic Doctors, including mine, in this state.*
- *Thank you.*

S E Frikken

Dr. Susan E. Frikken, physical therapist



Dr. Chloe Scheel, ND, Lac
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WISCONSIN LICENSURE - SENATE BILL 532

I am from Wausau, Wisconsin, and I would love to come back to Wisconsin to provide naturopathic medical care for Wisconsinites. But, I will not until Wisconsin licenses NDs and I can practice as I am trained. I am currently practicing with a full scope as a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) in Portland, Oregon. I have completed a four-year doctorate of natural medicine, a three-year masters of acupuncture and a two year post graduate residency in digestive disease, women's health and primary care. I currently have a thriving private practice where I have over 400 active primary care patients and am offering a residency next year to new graduate. My clinical focus is primary care, women's health and fertility. In Oregon, a naturopath's scope of practice is the exact same as a traditional medical doctor (MD) - we prescribe medications, order labs/imaging, interpret results, refer to specialists, and so much more.

As a naturopath, my primary focus is on prevention - a very important piece to healthcare that is often missed due to lack of time, regulations around coding and billing, and minimal education on the importance of diet and lifestyle. Naturopaths have extensive training in prevention and are not only able to treat disease but also are able to spend the time with patients to educate them on how to prevent future disease. Unfortunately, with a shortage of doctors and a very concerning increase in physician burnout, this in-depth evaluation of a patient's small signs and symptoms gets missed until a bigger problem is found. For example, in Wisconsin, diabetes is a huge concern. As a naturopath, we are trained to assess a patient's risk based on family history and current diet and lifestyle. Early interventions including regular blood sugar checks, dietary counseling, well researched nutrient support, can prevent a future diagnosis of diabetes. This will ultimately lead to a decrease in healthcare cost, frequency of doctor visits, and most importantly, an increase in the quality of life for the patient.

Why am I so passionate about Wisconsin's regulation of naturopaths? I hope to move back to Wausau, Wisconsin in the next few years to be closer to my family and friends. The regulation of ND's in the state is a HUGE concern of mine. I currently have friends and family interested in a more natural and preventative approach to their health, but are getting inadequate and often dangerous recommendations and treatments due to the lack of regulation. By moving forward with regulating ND's, this not only allows for more primary care physicians, but it also prevents those who are not adequately trained in naturopathic medicine from practicing medicine on patients who are unfamiliar with the difference between a 4-year medical school trained ND and a person who is choosing to use the word naturopath/ND without any training.

I would love the opportunity to speak with anyone on the importance of regulation of Naturopaths in Wisconsin. I understand time is valuable, but I hope this note shows my concern and desire for the regulation in Wisconsin. With having a full-time practice in a state with a full scope of practice, I hope I can provide insight to what a forward move in providing the option to alternative care to the people of Wisconsin may provide. I hope I can shed some light on what naturopathic medicine is and how it is actively practiced and regulated in Oregon. I am also happy to provide contacts with other specialties - MD's, DO's, chiropractors, etc. - who work in Oregon and have first-hand experience with coordinating care with naturopathic doctors.

I appreciate your time in reading my letter.

Dr. Chloe Scheel

Paul Bergquist, MD
E8903 Apple Lane
Viroqua Wisconsin 54665
docpaul13@yahoo.com
608-778-7447

September 29, 2021

Re: Support for Senate Bill 532

To the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

I ask for your support in licensing naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and post-infectious chronic disease, naturopathic doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, naturopathic doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

Naturopathic doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for naturopathic doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

I have practiced family medicine for the last 35 years, and have incorporated many naturopathic techniques into my practice, such as acupuncture, homeopathy, botanical medicine, functional medicine and nutrition. They have proven successful for many patients, especially when traditional allopathic approaches have failed.

I authored the chapter on Therapeutic Homeopathy for Dave Rakel's textbook on Integrative Medicine, now in its fourth edition. I had originally applied to the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in 1979, and was accepted there as well as at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where I ultimately decided to go. I don't regret that decision, but I believe now as I did then, that we MD's have a lot to learn from our fellow naturopaths, who also go through a rigorous 4 year training program, especially in the diagnosis and management of chronic disease.

Licensure of naturopaths is offered in 20 states, with 7 more that have bills pending for licensure. I believe it is time to have Wisconsin join the ranks, and offer our patients more options for their care, especially with respect to the management and prevention of chronic disease.

I urge the committee to give this bill a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

Paul Bergquist, MD

Former Medical Director, Vernon Memorial Hospital Family Practice and Complementary Medicine

Former Medical Director, Vernon Memorial Hospice Program

Former Medical Director, Soldier's Grove Health Care Services Nursing Home 3rd district

Retired from active medical practice July 2021

Kami Hansen
2850 Cty Rd BB
Cottage Grove, WI 53527-8862

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

As a chiropractor, I routinely refer my patients to Naturopathic Doctors in my area. My patients are looking for and need options for care outside of the traditional western medicine system. Utilizing ND's allows for a more collaborative approach to patients health care and well being.

I strongly support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Kami Hansen



Orit Vardi Tragash ND, LAc

313 Price Place, Suite 113, Madison, WI 53705 • 608.335.9298 • info@yarrownaturalmedicine.com
www.yarrownaturalmedicine.com

Date: 09/29/2021

Subject: I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors

Dear [[Recipient's Title and Name]]:

My name is Orit Vardi Tragash, a Naturopathic Doctor practicing in Madison, WI for five years. I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors. Licensing Naturopathic Doctors improves public safety, access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

I currently serve patients from all parts of Wisconsin. I support both adult and pediatric patients with a focus on digestive health, women's health, and mental health. Many patients seek me as they are interested in a provider that specializes in natural medicine. Many times they have been to several providers prior to seeing me, without improvement in their health concerns.

Naturopathic Doctors are highly trained as primary care providers. I received my Bachelor degree from UW-Madison and went on to receive my Naturopathic medical degree at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, OR. Naturopathic medical education includes standard medical curriculum as well as natural therapeutics and disease prevention. NDs participate in over 900 supervised clinical and observational hours during their Naturopathic education. We must also pass the two-part Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam (NPLEX), which covers basic sciences, diagnostic and therapeutic subjects, and clinical sciences.

Licensure would provide a strong benefit for my patients. Currently I serve as adjunctive care for all my patients. Being cared for by multiple providers can leave patients feeling overwhelmed and confused. Licensure would allow patients to choose the qualified provider best suited to them. Having the ability to practice in the full scope of my training would allow me to provide more comprehensive care for those I serve. Providing the best care to my patients is my top priority.

I urge you to support this bill, which would give Wisconsin residents greater choice and access in finding qualified health providers.

Sincerely,

Orit Vardi Tragash, ND, LAc.



Scott B. Patterson, D.D.S., M.S. • Specialist in Orthodontics

September 21, 2021

Chairman Mary Felzkowski and Members
Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry.
Madison, Wisconsin 53566

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and Members:

I would like to express my strong support for Senate Bill 532, establishing licensure for naturopathic physicians in Wisconsin.

Currently, any individual can announce that he or she is a practitioner in this field. In the past, my wife and son obtained treatment from a farmer's wife. We are very impressed with our current naturopathic physician's advanced knowledge in this field. Having studied nutritional science in my own doctoral program, and rather extensively since then, I can attest that the scientific basis for Dr. Coleman's treatment recommendations is very solidly grounded in published medical research that can be accessed on the National Library of Medicine's website, PubMed.

Licensing naturopathic physicians will serve to enhance the safety of Wisconsin residents when they seek qualified providers for this branch of medicine, much of which is missing from the curricula of medical schools today.

Naturopathic physicians are currently licensed in 22 states, the District of Columbia and some United States territories. In addition, Massachusetts has passed licensure and is currently promulgating rules to put licensure into effect.

Doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine are a minimum of four years of study beyond the baccalaureate degree. This seven to eight year education is the same length as most courses of study leading to MD, DDS, DO and DC degrees.

In contrast to the MD degree, which focuses on training doctors to alleviate symptoms after disease occurs (usually with therapeutics that come with side effects), the primary emphases of training for naturopathic doctors are on the prevention of disease, and on the treatment of the causes of diseases rather than symptoms, particularly those that are amenable to treatment by nutritional changes or other natural therapies.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott B. Patterson

SBP:xx

Sept 29, 2021

re: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 532, Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors

Senator Felzkowski and Senate Committee members,

I ask for your support in licensing naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, Naturopathic Doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, Naturopathic Doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

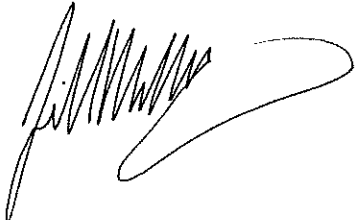
Naturopathic Doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for naturopathic doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

Licensure helps patients identify trained practitioners in the community and ensures a basic level of training and competency is met for those providing care. Licensure will also help to foster collaborative relationships between naturopathic doctors and allopathic providers.

Naturopathic Doctors are medically trained providers that need to be able to fully serve Wisconsinites with their full scope of their training. Licensing NDs is good for Wisconsin!

I urge this committee to support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Mallory", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jill Mallory, MD

Wildwood Family Clinic



September 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

My name is Joanne Aponte Qualler. I am a practicing Naturopathic Doctor in Shorewood Wisconsin. I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors.

I have been practicing since 2010. I received my degree from Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Arizona, a 4-year accredited program recognized by the US Department of Education. In Arizona where we are licensed, I would have the title "Naturopathic Physician". I specialize in gastrointestinal conditions, hormone related conditions, women's health, and lifestyle and nutrition counseling. Patients wait 6-8 weeks for an initial appointment. My patients come mainly from Milwaukee County and its surrounding counties however it's not uncommon for a patient to travel 1-2 hours to our clinic from other areas.

There are 3 main reasons I want to be licensed.

First, I wish to become a more integrated and respected practitioner in Wisconsin's health care system. Recently I referred a patient to an Endocrinologist to workup abnormal results in her bloodwork. That doctor expressed skepticism to the patient saying, "be careful". The doctor was concerned that the patient was seeing a natural medicine practitioner. My patient had to explain to this doctor that I was the reason she was there. This young woman had already seen 2 other medical doctors and I was as the only one who caught her abnormal result and urged her to see the endocrinologist. She had a high prolactin level, and I knew she needed to have an MRI of the brain to rule out a tumor.

This doctor's skepticism was understandable since currently there are no required standards and guidelines as to who can call themselves "Naturopathic Doctor". Right now, medical providers cannot know if they can trust an alternative medicine practitioner. There are practitioners using the term "Naturopathic Doctor" that have no medical training and Wisconsinites are still seeking their care, sometimes as a replacement to seeking actual medical care. This is a problem because medical diagnoses can be missed, improper diagnoses made, and patients can actually be harmed. Because of our training, we know when we need to refer, and we know when there might be a more serious medical condition that is not appropriate for natural medicine. We must first be licensed so that over time medical providers will know that "Naturopathic Doctor" means a trained health care provider that is practicing legitimate and safe medicine.



Second, I hope to be able to prescribe medications and bill labs through insurance. Right now, patients must pay cash for the labs I recommend. Patients might also have to make a second appointment with their medical provider for lab orders or medication. This additional appointment costs the patient more money and time and also fills up that other provider's schedule with a patient that does not really need to be seen. Many doctors, especially primary care providers, have very full schedules and excessive patient loads. When I refer a patient solely for lab orders or for a prescription, this is taking an appointment away from another patient who really needs it. I also feel using the medical provider solely for lab orders and prescriptions is not in the best interest of the patient due to lack of continuity of care. If I think a patient needs a medication, I should be the one to take responsibility for it. I am the one actively working with the patient, I know their case more closely and I should be the one monitoring their response to keep them safe.

The third reason I want to be licensed is for protection of my livelihood. Right now, malpractice insurance would not cover me if a claim was made. And it's a gray area as to whether I can legally touch my patient and perform physical exam. I still take the risk and do physical exams because I feel its necessary for good patient care. If my patient comes in with abdominal pain, I need to do an exam so that I know what the appropriate course of action should be. Without the abdominal exam I could potentially miss an urgent condition that would require medical workup and treatment.

Thank you, Senator Bernier, Senator Felzkowski, Senator Taylor and Senator Ringhand for being co-sponsors on this bill.

Thank you, Chairman and Senate Committee members, for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,
Joanne Aponte Qualler

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Madame Chair, members of the Senate Committee, I am grateful to be able to share my testimony with you and I urge you to support Senate bill 532, licensure for Naturopathic Doctors. Thank you for your co-sponsorship Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand.

Licensure of NDs ensures those who use the title Naturopathic Doctor are medically trained, competent and safe providers. Licensure upholds the standards of naturopathic medical practice and allow NDs to practice within the scope they are trained. Licensure of qualified NDs increases patient access to care and helps fill the primary care gap. Licensing NDs is good for Wisconsinites and good for health care in our state.

I am an MD and I support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors. I am a general Internal Medicine physician in the Madison area. I have worked with a Naturopathic Physician on numerous occasions and found that their knowledge on nutrition in the role of health and disease is superior to that emphasized in allopathic medicine.

I feel that Naturopathic Physicians are very well educated and have experience in treating the more difficult syndromes and diseases that are often idiopathic and difficult to treat. They also have experience in reversing autoimmune disorders with nutrition and supplements.

I do feel that licensure in the state of Wisconsin will allow NDs to be able to work within the scope of their practice and will ensure that the provider has met educational standards and continuing education requirements.

In Summary, I support the licensure of Naturopathic physicians in the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Diana Choles, MD
6255 Oak Hollow Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Senator Felzkowski and Senate Committee members,

I ask for your support in licensing Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, Naturopathic Doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, Naturopathic Doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

Naturopathic Doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for naturopathic doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

As a dermatologist working in an academic setting, I often don't have the time or resources to dive deeply into the lifestyle and natural approaches that would be highly effective, safe and cost-effective. I have worked with Naturopathic Doctors most of my career and have seen first-hand how they have been able to dramatically improve the quality of peoples lives.

Naturopathic Doctors are medically trained providers that need to be able to fully serve Wisconsinites with their full scope of their training. Licensing NDs is good for Wisconsin!

I urge this committee to support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Apple Bodemer, MD
Associate Professor of Dermatology
University of Wisconsin

**451 Junction Rd.
Madison, WI.**

DROESSLER CHIROPRACTIC

6000 Monona Drive, Suite 201

Monona, Wi. 53716

September 29, 2021

Re: ND Licensing

Dear Legislators:

My name is William Droessler, D.C., and I am writing to inform you of my experience with my ND both as a patient and a clinician. I live in McFarland and have practiced Chiropractic in Dane County since 1979, currently in Monona, Wi.. I sought ND care with Dr. Aaron Henkel, N.D. several years ago because I share the same philosophy of "cause" to determine the needs of patients and I wanted to be pro-active in my healthcare choices from a nutritional and optimal functional perspective in my blood work. I feel Dr. Henkel's acumen in the field of nutrition and blood analysis is impressive and his recommendations for my personal goals have been very beneficial. While I have a working knowledge of these topics, his pedagogical experience is far superior to mine when it comes to blood and nutritional analysis and because of that I have referred several of my own patients and immediate family members for his expertise. I consider Dr. Henkel my primary care provider because he is medically trained and practices Functional Medicine. It has been my experience that he would refer for additional diagnostics for patients demonstrating such a need and he would refer to other specialists as a co-management protocol when necessary. I feel his training has enabled him to determine when that is appropriate. I am of the opinion he and other NDs with the same/similar credentialing deserve to be licensed and practice to the full extent what they have been taught to offer patients seeking their help. Furthermore, the cost of his care has been very reasonable in comparison to my experience at conventional medical clinics in the Madison area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and feel free to contact me if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Droessler, D.C.

Sept 29, 2019

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I am an Adult Nurse Practitioner - Board Certified, a licensed RN, hold an MSN degree, and a certified Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber in the State of Wisconsin. I am also board certified in Case Management, Occupational Health, and a Certified Medical Examiner for the FMCSA. Many healthcare colleagues and I see an ever-expanding, unaccountable medico-pharmico-government technocracy that is degenerating. The question is "What can be done about our failing system?"

My health and well-being have personally been harmed within this system, and I daily witness patients who are treated with pills, pills, and more pills, jabs, and expensive procedures and other modalities that do not work well long term, and often cause more harm than good.

Eight years ago I adopted a whole-food plant-based diet (most allopathic providers are clueless) which resolved my diabetes and several other health conditions. Despite improving, I am aging and have arthritis and chronic pain after 4 foot surgeries, and anxiety about my loss of movement which contributed to elevated blood pressure. My hypertensive state responded poorly to pharmaceuticals. I suffered unpleasant medication side effects for which allopathic practitioners wanted to prescribe even more pills. Furthermore, those practitioners completely ignore long term side effects. I do not want polypharmacy, and I certainly do not want to sacrifice tomorrow's well-being to alleviate a suffering today. That makes no sense.

Fortunately I found an excellent naturopathic physician, Dr. Kerry Niebrzydowski, in Wisconsin who successfully treated the root causes of my conditions with safe and effective modalities and herbs. I've experienced no adverse side effects. My ND actually listens to me, and her HEALTH care is affordable despite my insurance not covering it. Her expertise did for me what no allopathic provider could.

Our current health care system is irreparably broken. Our current DISEASE care model is unsustainable. Now, more than ever, we need naturopathic physicians who support our innate health and work with our bodies to cure the root causes of disease. As a state legislator you can promote health freedom of choice by supporting SB 532.

Sincerely,

Claudette Gunther
N3261 Valley Rd
Bonduel, WI 54121

September 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

First, thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill.

Second, I am writing to you today to show my support for the licensing of Naturopathic Doctors (NDs). My life has been radically improved by the support of my ND, and I have no motivation for writing this letter other than to help others experience the same positive impact that I experienced.

I met Dr. Joanne Aponte, ND, at Lakeside Natural Medicine in early 2019. I found Lakeside on Google and was impressed by the raving reviews.

Previously, I had seen four doctors in an effort to heal my acid reflux. Within a period of a year or so, my acid reflux got so bad that I lost 20lbs and couldn't sleep at night. My family and friends thought I was terminally ill just by looking at me. The doctors I saw thought prilosec was the answer. I was 28 at the time, this did not feel like an adequate solution to me. I then spent another few months trying to play my own doctor. I'm an engineer, not a doctor, so I put in the time to research online but I didn't really know what I was doing.

Within months of seeing Dr. Aponte, I was seeing more progress than years of seeking help from MDs. I was impressed by how many questions were asked in my initial visit. It was clear that the Lakeside NDs are trained to do extensive research before jumping to any conclusions on condition or treatment. To me, this felt safer than anything I've experienced in a more traditional hospital setting. The results were encouraging, so I put full faith in Dr. Aponte, and within a year from beginning to end, we were able to heal my stomach entirely, allowing me to sleep through the night, regain the 20lbs that I had lost, and ultimately allowing me more time to be a better father and husband.

Now, years later, I have never felt better. And despite paying out of pocket, I'm sure that this route ended up saving me large sums of money that otherwise would have been spent on endless additional hospital visits and medical procedures. This experience was life changing for me to say the least. Ever since then, we have had numerous similar experiences with NDs for our family health needs. There is no doubt that NDs serve a place in society, and that by offering the same licensing benefits to NDs as MDs, perhaps others may experience the same life changing results that me and my family have been fortunate enough to experience.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jesse DePinto

1845 N Farwell Ave. Suite 100
Milwaukee, WI 53202





29 September 2021

Madame Speaker and Members of the Senate,

I would like to thank Senator Bernier for her tireless support of Naturopathic Doctors, and Senators Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of this bill.

My name is Kristi Kiel and I am a Naturopathic Doctor. I live in Washburn, Wisconsin and have a private practice in Ashland, Wisconsin. I serve the citizens of northern Wisconsin and have many patients who drive 1-2 hours to seek my services. I am writing to urge you to vote in support of SB 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin.

I received a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Oregon and a Naturopathic Doctorate degree from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. My naturopathic training was a 4-year post graduate in-person training program that included many hours of clinical training.

SB 532 will allow me to practice medicine in the way that I was trained to practice, by allowing me to order lab tests to facilitate diagnosis and treatment of my patients. By setting up standards to determine which natural health practitioners can call themselves "Naturopathic Doctors", SB 532 will ensure that the citizens of Wisconsin can choose to be treated by well-trained professional doctors of natural medicine.

Many Naturopathic Doctors are reticent to live in a state that does not provide the protection and privileges afforded by licensing. By becoming a state that licenses Naturopathic Doctors, Wisconsin will draw in more practitioners and increase the availability of naturopathic medicine to Wisconsinites. This is particularly important in the sparsely populated areas of northern Wisconsin where many people have to drive for hours to see a provider like myself.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for working to make Wisconsin a better place.

Sincerely,

Kristi J Kiel, ND, PhD

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

In July 2004 I got a migraine headache that lasted for 2 years. Yes, 2 years!! I worked with my MD and a neurologist to try to rid me of the unrelenting pain. I went through so much in those 2 years. I had been put on 11 different medications including Vicodin and oxycontin. I was routinely asked if I had thoughts of suicide from the medications. I was told I could up my dose of vicodin and oxycontin. I refused to do that for fear of addiction. I was like a zombie. I had a spinal tap, botox injections into my temples and jaw, I had a full hysterectomy and more. I would have done anything to take the pain away. I slept with an ice pack on my head at night and missed so much with my family.

A family member urged me to try acupuncture. I went to a Naturopathic Doctor who asked me a lot of questions and physically checked me out. He noted that he thought it was a gall bladder issue that was the root cause. I told him two of my family members had their gall bladders removed. He said, we don't want to remove it, we want to make sure it functions properly. He provided acupuncture and suggested two herbal supplements. I also called my MD to ask how ween myself off the narcotics and antidepressants I had been prescribed. Within 2 days of seeing the naturopathic doctor I slept through the night for the **FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS**. I was headache free within 10 days.

From this Naturopathic Doctor, I learned what to look for when I would start to get a headache and now to naturally break that cycle of pain. From having numerous migraines a year to no migraines in the last 21 years! I have continued to see naturopathic doctors for many reasons. What I have found in all cases is determining the root cause and treating that rather than treating the symptoms. This naturopathic medical care **SAVED MY LIFE**. Truly.

With everything I went through, my co-workers thought I had cancer or some awful disease. I looked and felt awful. Even people I haven't seen in years who remember what I looked like say they can't believe I survived. I can't say enough about the true healing that can be provided by naturopathic doctors. I and many others have and continue to seek their care for many ailments. I lost two years of my life. Naturopathic medicine gave it back to me.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wachter
823 Charles Ct.
Oregon, WI 53575-3635



DATE: 9/27/21

POSITION: SUPPORT SB 532

To whom it may concern

I ask for your support in licensing naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, naturopathic doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, Naturopathic Doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

Naturopathic Doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for Naturopathic Doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

I am an internist who has been in practice for the past 25 years. I realized that traditional medicine was great to treat acute issues but I saw that most people came in with a lot of chronic health issues. My interest in trying to help these patients led me to do a fellowship in integrative medicine. As I started practicing more of complimentary medicine I started sharing patients with Naturopathic Doctors and realized that the basis of treating chronic health conditions was naturopathic medicine.

A lot of patients are seeking a naturopathic approach and many states are recognizing their potential and are giving them a license to prescribe. I think it is time we woke up to our health care crisis of chronic illness and traditional medicine that is failing.

It would be prudent to have Naturopathic Doctors who can align with other integrative medicine physicians to treat patients as a whole rather than the fragmentation that I see in traditional medicine.

I have worked with Dr Axtell, a licensable Naturopathic Doctor, on many occasions and have seen remarkable progress and improvement in health in many of our shared patients.

I urge this committee to give Senate Bill 532 a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

Dr Malini Mehta MD
Internal Medicine, Integrative Medicine
Advocate Aurora Health Care
2424 S 90th street
West Allis Wisconsin 53151

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I was struggling with multiple visits and large bills to Monroe Clinic but not getting better for it. I decided to try my Naturopathic Doctor as well. It turns out she educated me more than my other doctors, provided me with access to the correct testing, and empowered me to change my situation through listening and stewarding. Her rates were completely fair, her patience astounding, her office welcoming- not scary or sterile-, her resources life changing. If not for her I know I would not have improved easily. Visits were enjoyable and always left me hopeful.

I would prefer for her to provide my primary care, and she is currently helpful as collaborative care. I completely trust my ND and recommend her to everyone I know. Please help ND's in Wisconsin because they help us!!!

Sincerely,

Brenda Massei
N8102 sandy hook road
Brooklyn, WI 53521-9729

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Madame Chair, members of the Senate Committee, I am grateful to be able to share my testimony with you and I urge you to support Senate bill 532, licensure for Naturopathic Doctors. Thank you for your co-sponsorship Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand.

Licensure of NDs ensures those who use the title Naturopathic Doctor are medically trained, competent and safe providers. Licensure upholds the standards of naturopathic medical practice and allow NDs to practice within the scope they are trained. Licensure of qualified NDs increases patient access to care and helps fill the primary care gap. Licensing NDs is good for Wisconsinites and good for health care in our state.

I am an MD and I support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors. I am a general Internal Medicine physician in the Madison area. I have worked with a Naturopathic Physician on numerous occasions and found that their knowledge on nutrition in the role of health and disease is superior to that emphasized in allopathic medicine.

I feel that Naturopathic Physicians are very well educated and have experience in treating the more difficult syndromes and diseases that are often idiopathic and difficult to treat. They also have experience in reversing autoimmune disorders with nutrition and supplements.

I do feel that licensure in the state of Wisconsin will allow NDs to be able to work within the scope of their practice and will ensure that the provider has met educational standards and continuing education requirements.

In Summary, I support the licensure of Naturopathic physicians in the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Diana Choles, MD
6255 Oak Hollow Drive
Oregon, WI 53575

September 29, 2021

re: In favor of Senate Bill 532 to license NDs

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate.

Thank you to Senator Bernier and Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for co-sponsoring this bill

I am Sarah Bruhn and I live in Janesville WI.

As infants, our children were constantly sick. They were on antibiotics and steroids as well as having many ER visits. I myself was overwhelmed, had no energy, suffered from depression and anxiety while my husband had a neck injury that he was told required surgery. I remember feeling helpless and spending many late nights desperate for answers, researching on my own to find a way to help our children.

After numerous ER visits and doctor appointments without any improvement, we started looking for a way to get our children well. Then we learned of Naturopathic Doctors. Without licensure I was apprehensive, especially since I work in healthcare and didn't know anything about NDs as well as apprehension from family, friends and our MDs.

We started working with a medically-trained ND and our health started to improve. Having our son's asthma greatly improve started giving me hope again. As well as my husband's pain being relieved and avoiding surgery. I too found myself feeling better after treating adrenal fatigue that went undiagnosed for years.

However, our daughter's illness had every doctor baffled for years. She had dizziness, passed out any time she exercised, lost all energy and was even bedridden at times. We exhausted every doctor: orthopedic, neurology, cardiology, genetic counselors etc with no answers. We were told that some kids just pass out that it was likely depression, and were referred to a therapist. There was no diagnosis. Our daughter who was an active athlete was now sick, bedridden, feeling defeated, alone and depressed, being told it was in her head.

It was our ND who suggested POTS after she researched and never stopped searching for answers for our girl. She then referred us to a MD in Toledo who specialized in POTS in teenagers. Her life slowly started to improve. She still has limitations, however, today she is a thriving 24 year old who has become the biggest advocate for her friends and family's health. She'll be graduating soon, she has a full time job, otherwise she'd be here if she could!! We owe this all to the extra attention the ND took, as well as the feeling of empowering yourself to take on your health.

A limitation we encountered from our ND not being licensed was reluctance from the MDs to order needed labs and imaging requested by the ND. Also, we needed to have a visit with the

MD before ordering the labs and imaging the ND had requested. If NDs were licensed I believe there would be understanding from the MD and easily transferred and communicated records and well as an easier process for all. Also, with licensure, the NDs would be able to directly order labs and imaging and we would not have to go through the MD.

If NDs were licensed, I believe MDs would be more receptive to working together. They would come from a place of understanding and be able to collaborate together in our best interests. MDs would have assurance when someone calls themselves an ND, the doctor is medically trained and competent to be a medical provider.

We love our NDs because they take the extra time to listen, they collaborate, teach us how to be well in all areas, encourage us to listen to our bodies. NDs are highly educated and knowledgeable, which helped them to catch something others had missed. Also their expertise helped me to feel confident and have hope in healing. I was able to feel back in control to become a student for life, restoring my belief in how amazing our bodies are and teaching our kids to get more involved in their health to listen to our bodies, what our bodies need.

I urge you to support this bill, so NDs can be a primary care doctors, so they can manage our healthcare smoothly with MDs and use their education, expertise and skill. Working together MDs and NDs will greatly improve health and well being. It takes a village, a team, working together towards health we can all learn from each other, there is not one expert. It's important for us to bring ourselves back into decisions, to be aware and an active member. MDs could also benefit from referring to NDs. It would help them to treat their patients, to consult with a different type of medicine, to lessen the burden of patients. Wait times to get in are forcing doctors to recommend the ER. The ER is forced to see patients with non urgent issues taking away from the true emergencies. We have avoided the ER, avoided multiple doctor visits, saved a lot of money, as well as lessened the burden on MDs.

I'm so glad we continued to see both versus letting the lack of licensure, and lack of understanding from others scare us. We continued to see both MDs and NDs and we benefited from treating our body as a whole and getting to the root cause.

Please support Senate Bill 532, licensure for NDs and help move healthcare forward for Wisconsin.

Sarah Bruhn
1013 Bedford Dr.
Janesville, WI 53546



NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS
LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

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Portland, Oregon 97219

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Executive Director

Christa Louise, MS, PhD

September 29, 2021

RE: Support for Senate Bill 532

Dear Honorable Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 532. This legislation is critical to ensuring that through the establishment of a professional regulatory authority, the citizens of Wisconsin are protected from unsafe naturopathic practitioners.

Regulations and licensing laws for the healthcare professions are established to protect the public. Practitioners must be adequately trained, and must possess the knowledge necessary to provide safe and effective patient care. By providing valid board-level examinations, NPLEX ensures that naturopathic physicians have the knowledge they need to be safe practitioners.

NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations) has been producing examinations specifically and exclusively to test the entry-level competence of naturopathic physicians for more than 30 years. NPLEX follows the psychometric standards set forth in the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* compiled by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME). To ensure that NPLEX content is relevant to practice as a naturopathic doctor, a survey of the naturopathic profession (a "practice analysis", which is regularly updated) establishes the foundation of this board-level examination. The results of the practice analysis inform the development of the blueprint, which specifies the competencies an entry level ND must possess in order to be a safe practitioner (the list of competencies is attached). NPLEX has three NDs on staff and uses a highly trained pool of more than volunteer 150 item writers and reviewers (subject matter experts). Exam/items statistics are subjected to extensive psychometric analysis, to ensure that error is minimized and reliability is maximized. Currently, all U.S. states/territories that license NDs and 4 Canadian provinces recognize NPLEX as the examination that will ensure that candidates for licensure as naturopathic physicians meet minimal competence requirements. NPLEX has been endorsed as the standard for the naturopathic profession by the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND), and the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME).

Public safety will be enhanced when Wisconsin passes a law that (among other functions) requires naturopathic licensees to have passed both the NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science and Part II - Clinical Science Examinations. Your vote for SB 532 will demonstrate your acknowledgment of your constituents' trust by protecting them from unqualified practitioners.

Sincerely,

Christa Louise, MS, PhD
Executive Director

NPLEX PART II - CORE CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION COMPETENCIES

- I. **DIAGNOSIS**: Diagnose patients using patient history, physical and clinical findings, and lab test and imaging results.
- A. **Evaluate patients and diagnose common and critical conditions. (20%)**
1. Take a medical and psychosocial history, and interpret findings.
 2. Perform a physical examination and interpret findings.
 3. Perform orthopedic tests and interpret findings.
 4. Recognize psychiatric disorders.
 5. Identify the relevant risk factors for common and critical conditions.
 6. Recognize the signs and symptoms of common and critical conditions.
 7. Identify other conditions associated with common and critical conditions.
 8. Generate a differential diagnosis of common and critical conditions.
 9. Delineate the pathogenesis of diseases, and determine possible etiologies of symptoms.
 10. Predict the complications and sequelae of common and critical conditions.
 11. Determine the prognosis for patients who have common and critical conditions.
 12. Identify high risk patients, and refer when necessary.
- B. **Use the results of common lab tests and imaging studies to evaluate, diagnose, and manage patient care. (12%)**
1. Select necessary lab tests and imaging studies.
 2. Interpret results of lab tests and imaging studies.
 3. Collect and prepare specimens for lab evaluation.
 4. Identify factors that may interfere with lab results.
 5. Monitor patient progress using lab tests and imaging studies.
 6. Identify contraindications for and adverse effects of lab tests.
- II. **MATERIA MEDICA**: Develop treatment plans using substances from the Materia Medica to manage patient care; monitor patient progress.
- A. **Manage patient care by applying principles of botanical prescribing. (14%)**
1. Evaluate the safety and efficacy of botanical medicine prescriptions.
 2. Prescribe botanical medicines based on pharmacognosy, therapeutic effects, indications, contraindications, mechanisms of action, side effects, potentiators, inhibitors, toxicity, and other interactions.
 3. Select the most effective mode of administration of botanical medicines.
 4. Determine and document appropriate posology.
- B. **Manage patient care by applying principles of homeopathic prescribing. (6%)**
1. Take a homeopathic case history.
 2. Prescribe homeopathic medicines.
 3. Manage acute and chronic homeopathic cases.

III. OTHER MODALITIES: Develop treatment plans using other therapeutic modalities guided by naturopathic philosophy to manage patient care; monitor patient progress.

A. Manage patient care by applying principles of clinical nutrition. (11%)

1. Assess nutritional status.
2. Evaluate the safety and efficacy of nutritional interventions.
3. Prescribe nutritional substances based on indications, contraindications, bioavailability, food sources, and requirements for macronutrients, micronutrients, amino acids, and accessory nutritional factors.
4. Prescribe therapeutic diets based on indications and contraindications.
5. Educate patients about general nutrition and food sources of nutrients.

B. Manage patient care by applying principles of physical medicine. (8%)

1. Evaluate the safety and efficacy of physical medicine modality prescriptions.
2. Perform osseous and soft tissue manipulation.
3. Treat patients using therapeutic devices (diathermy, galvanism, infrared, interferential, iontophoresis, light therapy, microcurrent, sine wave, therapeutic ultrasound, TENS, traction and compression, and UV radiation).
4. Administer hydrotherapy treatments and other methods of external application.
5. Treat patients using irrigation methods.
6. Prescribe therapeutic exercise.
7. Educate patients regarding prevention of and home treatment for musculoskeletal conditions.
8. Perform percussion and postural drainage.

C. Apply principles of health psychology in developing management plans that address the relationship between illness and the mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of a person. (7%) Apply research findings to patient management. (2%)

1. Apply ethical principles to physician-patient interactions.
2. Apply basic counseling principles, and use counseling techniques to provide patient care.
3. Educate patients regarding lifestyle choices, health promotion, and the prevention of chronic disease.
4. Use or prescribe mind-body techniques to help patients manage the stress associated with acute, chronic, and terminal conditions.
5. Apply psychological principles of pain management.
6. Identify and address lifespan/developmental issues (including contraceptive counseling).
7. Appropriately use psychological testing.
8. Intervene in psychological crisis situations.
9. Interpret, critique, and apply results of research studies.
 - a. Evaluate research methodology.
 - b. Determine validity of research conclusions.
 - c. Incorporate valid findings into patient management.

IV. OTHER (MEDICAL) INTERVENTIONS: Incorporate knowledge of medical interventions and apply as appropriate to case management.

A. Address emergency medical situations, perform acute-care medical procedures, and implement public health policies. (10%)

1. Assess, treat, refer, and/or transport patients in medical and traumatic acute-care emergencies.
2. Perform Basic Life Support/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
3. Apply principles of sterilization, disinfection, and universal precautions.
4. Perform venipuncture.
5. Administer parenteral substances.
6. Educate patients and the public on the principles of immunization.
7. Administer oxygen and other inhalation therapeutics.
8. Manage hazardous substances and materials.
9. Respond to public health issues (educate patients about and report communicable diseases, deal with epidemics/pandemics, drug addiction and overdose, etc.)
10. Apply principles of medical disaster preparedness.

B. Know the pharmacology of commonly prescribed drugs. (10%)

1. Describe primary actions, adverse effects, indications, contraindications, and potential interactions with botanical medicines, nutritional supplements, and other drugs. (see list, pages 18 through 20)
2. Identify natural therapeutic interventions that have effects similar to commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals.
3. Monitor and assess for therapeutic drug levels and toxicity.

NPLEX PART II - CORE CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION CONDITIONS TESTED ON THE NPLEX

1. **Conditions of the blood and lymphatic systems (7%)**
 - A. **cancers** (leukemia [CLL, CML], Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma)
 - B. **infections and inflammations** (babesiosis, malaria, septicemia)
 - C. **lymphatic system disorders** (lymphadenitis, lymphangitis, lymphedema)
 - D. **red cell disorders** (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, hemochromatosis, sickle cell disease, alpha-thalassemia, beta-thalassemia, acute blood loss anemia, aplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, anemia of chronic disease, and vitamin deficiency anemias [iron, vitamin B12, folate])
 - E. **myeloproliferative disorders** (polycythemia vera, secondary polycythemia)
 - F. **coagulation and platelet disorders** (disseminated intravascular coagulation, hemophilia A/factor VIII deficiency, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, vitamin K deficiency, von Willebrand disease)
 - G. **porphyrias** (acute intermittent porphyria, erythropoietic protoporphyria, porphyria cutanea tarda)

2. **Conditions of the cardiovascular system (9%)**
 - A. **cardiac disorders** (acute coronary syndrome/myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, congestive heart failure [right-sided, left-sided], endocarditis, pericarditis, rheumatic heart disease)
 - B. **cardiac rhythm disorders** (atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, cardiac arrest, heart block, premature atrial and ventricular contractions, sinus bradycardia, supraventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia)
 - C. **valvular disorders** (regurgitation [aortic, mitral, pulmonic, and tricuspid], stenosis [aortic, mitral, pulmonic, and tricuspid], mitral valve prolapse)
 - D. **blood pressure dysregulation** (hypertension, hypertensive crisis, hypotension)
 - E. **circulatory system disorders** (aortic aneurysm, chronic venous insufficiency, gangrene, hypovolemic shock & dehydration, phlebitis, primary and secondary Raynaud phenomenon, stasis dermatitis and ulcers)
 - F. **occlusive vascular disorders** (atherosclerosis, coronary microvascular disease, peripheral vascular disease [peripheral artery disease and intermittent claudication, thromboangiitis obliterans, embolism, thrombosis, thrombophlebitis])
 - G. **trauma** (chest injuries with cardiovascular implications)

3. **Conditions of the endocrine system (7%)**
 - A. **neoplasms** (adrenal, pancreatic, parathyroid, pituitary, thyroid)
 - B. **hypothalamic and pituitary hormone disorders** (hyposecretion [panhypopituitarism, galactorrhea, growth hormone deficiency, diabetes insipidus], hypersecretion [acromegaly, Cushing disease, syndrome of inappropriate ADH secretion])
 - C. **thyroid disorders** (Hashimoto thyroiditis, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism [primary, secondary, subclinical], non-toxic goiter)
 - D. **parathyroid disorders** (hyperparathyroidism, hypoparathyroidism)
 - E. **adrenal disorders** (Addison disease, Cushing syndrome, functional adrenal disorders, hyperaldosteronism)
 - F. **pancreatic disorders** (diabetes mellitus type 2, reactive hypoglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome)
 - G. **other** (late-onset hypogonadism, menopause, PCOS)

4. **Conditions of the gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary systems (9%)**
- A. **neoplasms** (colorectal, esophageal, gallbladder, gastric, hepatic)
 - B. **infections and inflammation** (GI abscess, pancreatitis, peritonitis)
 - C. **esophageal disorders** (Barrett esophagus, eosinophilic esophagitis, esophageal motility disorder, esophageal strictures, esophageal varices, GERD, hiatal hernia)
 - D. **stomach disorders** (gastric ulcer, gastritis)
 - E. **hepatic disorders** (cirrhosis, hepatitis [A, B, C, non-infectious], non-alcoholic steatohepatitis)
 - F. **gallbladder disorders** (cholecystitis, cholelithiasis)
 - G. **intestinal disorders** (appendicitis, celiac disease and gluten enteropathy, diverticulitis, diverticulosis, duodenal ulcer, inflammatory bowel disease [Crohn disease, ulcerative colitis], hernia [inguinal, umbilical], ileus, intestinal polyps, Meckel diverticulum, megacolon)
 - H. **rectal disorders** (anorectal strictures, cryptitis, fissures, fistula, hemorrhoids, polyps, proctitis, rectal prolapse)
 - I. **functional disorders of the GI and hepatobiliary system** (food allergies/intolerances, hypochlorhydria, intestinal dysbiosis [candidiasis and small intestinal bacterial overgrowth], irritable bowel syndrome)
 - J. **trauma** (injuries involving the abdominal cavity, poisoning)
 - K. **other disorders impacting public health** (acute and chronic diarrhea [bacterial and viral gastroenteritis, parasitic infections])
5. **Conditions of the head and neck (5%)**
- A. **neoplasms** (laryngeal, oral [gingival, tongue, tonsillar])
 - B. **infections** (cytomegalovirus, diphtheria, mastoiditis, mononucleosis/EBV)
 - C. **eye disorders** (acute closed-angle glaucoma, blepharitis, conjunctivitis, detachments [retinal, vitreous], keratitis, optic neuritis, orbital cellulitis, pterygium, retinal hemorrhage, retinopathy [diabetic, hypertensive], uveitis)
 - D. **ear disorders** (cholesteatoma, Ménière disease, otosclerosis, ruptured tympanic membrane, vertigo due to inner ear disorders [benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, labyrinthitis], other vestibular disorders)
 - E. **nose and sinus disorders** (allergic rhinitis, nasal polyps, sinusitis, sinus headache)
 - F. **mouth and throat disorders** (candidiasis, dental abscess, gingivitis, glossitis, herpangina, laryngitis, leukoplakia, parotitis, peritonsillar abscess, pharyngitis, retropharyngeal abscess, sialolithiasis, stomatitis, tonsillitis)
 - G. **trauma** (foreign bodies, non-neurological injuries)
6. **Conditions of the immune system (7%)**
- A. **immune deficiency disorders** (HIV/AIDS, IgA deficiency)
 - B. **autoimmune disorders** (ankylosing spondylitis, myasthenia gravis, polymyositis, reactive arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, Sjögren syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus, vasculitis [giant cell/temporal arteritis, Henoch-Schönlein purpura, necrotizing vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa])
 - C. **hypersensitivity disorders** (allergies, anaphylaxis, angioedema, urticaria)
 - D. **other** (chronic fatigue syndrome, disorders of mitochondrial function [fibromyalgia])

7. **Conditions of the musculoskeletal system (9%)**

- A. **neoplasms** (chondroma, osteochondroma, osteoid osteoma, osteoma, osteosarcoma)
- B. **infections and inflammations** (arthritis [psoriatic, septic], bursitis, degenerative disc disease, degenerative joint disease, gout, Lyme disease, tendinopathy)
- C. **bone disorders** (Paget disease of the bone, osteomalacia, osteomyelitis, osteopenia, osteoporosis)
- D. **shoulder and arm disorders** (adhesive capsulitis, rotator cuff injury, tendinopathy, thoracic outlet syndrome)
- E. **elbow disorders** (epicondylitis, ulnar nerve entrapment)
- F. **hand and wrist disorders** (carpal tunnel syndrome, de Quervain tenosynovitis, Dupuytren contracture, ganglion/synovial cyst)
- G. **spinal disorders** (cervical disorders [discopathy, spondylosis, torticollis]; thoracic disorders [costochondritis, discopathy, facet syndrome]; lumbar and sacral disorders [discopathy, sciatica, spondylolisthesis]; postural disorders; spinal stenosis)
- H. **hip and thigh disorders** (avascular necrosis of the femoral head, iliotibial band syndrome)
- I. **knee disorders** (Baker cyst, ligament disorders, meniscal disorders, patellofemoral syndrome)
- J. **leg and ankle disorders** (medial tibial stress syndrome)
- K. **foot disorders** (functional disorders of the foot [pes planus/cavus], hallux malleus, hallux valgus, Morton neuroma, plantar fasciitis)
- L. **trauma** (disc herniation, disc rupture, dislocation, fracture, separation, spasm, sprain, strain, tear, tendon rupture, whiplash)
- M. **other** (complex regional pain syndrome, muscular dystrophy)

8. **Conditions of the nervous system (8%)**

- A. **neoplasms** (acoustic neuroma, astrocytoma, glioma, glioblastoma multiforme, meningioma)
- B. **infections and inflammations** (acute inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy/Guillain-Barré syndrome, botulism, encephalitis, herpes zoster, meningitis, neuropathy, polio, rabies, radiculitis, tetanus)
- C. **vascular disorders** (arteriovenous malformations, cerebral aneurysm, cerebral vascular accident, transient ischemic attacks)
- D. **headaches** (cluster, migraine, tension, temporomandibular joint disorder)
- E. **other neurological head disorders** (Bell palsy, vertigo not related to inner ear disorders, trigeminal neuralgia)
- F. **seizure disorders** (partial/focal, general [absence, myoclonic, tonic, tonic-clonic, atonic])
- G. **neurodegenerative diseases** (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinsonism, peripheral neuropathy, post-polio syndrome)
- H. **trauma** (causes of neurological injury [chronic traumatic encephalopathy, intracranial hemorrhage, shock, toxic exposure, traumatic brain injury])

9. **Conditions of the respiratory system (7%)**

- A. **neoplasms** (adenocarcinoma, mesothelioma, non-small cell carcinoma, Pancoast tumor, small cell/oat cell carcinoma)
- B. **infections and inflammations** (blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, influenza)
- C. **bronchial disorders** (bronchiectasis, bronchitis)
- D. **lung disorders** (abscess, acute respiratory distress syndrome, asthma, atelectasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, empyema, pleural effusion, pleuritis/pleurisy, pneumoconiosis, pneumonia, pneumothorax, pulmonary edema, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary infarction, sarcoidosis, tuberculosis)
- E. **trauma** (airway obstruction, thoracic injuries with pulmonary implications)

10. **Conditions of the skin and nails (3%)**

- A. **cancerous and pre-cancerous lesions** (actinic keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, Kaposi sarcoma, melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma)
- B. **infections and inflammations** (acne vulgaris, candidiasis, carbuncle/furuncle, cellulitis, clematocosis, felon, folliculitis, herpes simplex type I, lichen planus, molluscum contagiosum, necrotizing fasciitis, onychomycosis, paronychia, pityriasis alba and rosea, rosacea, scabies, seborrheic dermatitis, tinea)
- C. **benign skin lesions** (acanthosis nigricans, acrochordons, lichenification, lipoma, sebaceous cysts, seborrheic keratosis, verrucae)
- D. **immune-mediated disorders** (bullous pemphigoid, atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, dermatitis herpetiformis, erythema multiforme, pemphigus, psoriasis, urticaria, vitiligo)
- E. **trauma** (bites, burns, foreign bodies, lacerations)

11. **Conditions of the genitourinary and reproductive systems (9%)**

- A. **neoplasms** (bladder cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, seminoma, upper urinary tract cancer, uterine/endometrial cancer and masses [leiomyoma, endometrial adenocarcinoma, sarcoma], vulvar cancer)
- B. **infections** (pelvic inflammatory disease, toxic shock syndrome)
- C. **urinary tract disorders** (cystitis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial cystitis, nephrosclerosis, nephrosis/nephrotic syndrome, polycystic kidney, pyelonephritis, chronic kidney disease & acute kidney injury, renal glycosuria, urethritis, urolithiasis [cystolithiasis, nephrolithiasis])
- D. **uterine and pelvic disorders** (endometrial hyperplasia, endometriosis, endometritis, polyps, uterine prolapse)
- E. **vaginal disorders** (Bartholin cyst, colpocele, cystocele, dyspareunia, rectocele, vaginitis [bacterial, candidal, trichomonal])
- F. **ovarian disorders** (mittelschmerz, ovarian cysts)
- G. **cervical disorders** (cervical dysplasia, nabothian cysts)
- H. **vulvar disorders** (lichen sclerosus, vulvitis, vulvodynia)
- I. **menstrual disorders** (amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, oligomenorrhea, pre-menstrual syndrome)
- J. **female fertility disorders** (infertility due to cervical and uterine abnormalities, hormonal imbalances, immunologic incompatibility, metabolic abnormalities, nutritional deficiencies, ovarian failure, tubal obstruction)
- K. **male fertility disorders** (infertility due to ductal obstruction, ejaculatory abnormalities, hormonal imbalances, sperm and semen abnormalities)
- L. **erectile dysfunction** (endocrinologic, neurologic, pharmacologic, psychogenic, vascular)
- M. **penile and testicular disorders and benign masses** (balanitis, epididymitis, hematocele, hydrocele, orchitis, paraphimosis, phimosis, testicular torsion, spermatocele, varicocele)
- N. **prostatic disorders** (benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis)
- O. **sexually transmitted infections** (chancroid, chlamydia, condylomata acuminata, condyloma lata, gonorrhea, herpes simplex type II, human papillomavirus, lymphogranuloma venereum, syphilis)
- P. **trauma** (foreign bodies, injuries)

12. **Conditions of the breasts and axillae (3%)**
- A. **neoplasms** (breast cancer [DCIS, LCIS, inflammatory, invasive], fibroadenoma, fibrocystic breast disease, Paget disease of the breast)
 - B. **infections** (mastitis)
 - C. **other** (gynecomastia)
13. **Conditions related to pregnancy (4%)**
- A. **masses** (gestational trophoblastic disease/hydatidiform mole)
 - B. **maternal infections** (group B streptococcus, toxoplasmosis)
 - C. **maternal antepartum disorders** (anemia, gestational diabetes, hyperemesis gravidarum, gestational hypertension, polyhydramnios, preeclampsia)
 - D. **general pre/postnatal care and symptoms commonly associated with pregnancy** (constipation, hemorrhoids, leg cramps, nausea and vomiting, urinary tract infection, vaginitis, varicose veins)
 - E. **obstetric emergencies** (abruptio placenta, eclampsia, ectopic pregnancy, placenta previa, postpartum hemorrhage, precipitous birth, pre-term labor, prolapsed cord, retained placenta, Rh factor incompatibility, threatened and spontaneous abortion)
 - F. **maternal postpartum disorders** (depression, lactation disorders, post-partum thyroiditis, symphysis pubis dysfunction)
14. **Conditions generally pertaining to pediatrics (5%)**
- A. **neoplasms** (leukemia [ALL, AML], Ewing sarcoma, neuroblastoma, nephroblastoma, osteosarcoma, retinoblastoma)
 - B. **infections and inflammations** (childhood exanthems [erythema infectiosum, roseola, rubella, rubeola, scarlet fever], encephalitis, coxsackievirus, herpangina, impetigo, meningitis, mumps, otitis media, pediculosis, pertussis, rheumatic fever, streptococcal pharyngitis, thrush, varicella)
 - C. **respiratory disorders** (asthma, bronchiolitis, laryngotracheobronchitis (croup), cystic fibrosis, epiglottitis, infant respiratory distress syndrome, respiratory syncytial virus)
 - D. **congenital disorders** (anal stenosis, cerebral palsy, congenital hypothyroidism, Hirschsprung disease)
 - E. **gastrointestinal disorders** (colic, encopresis, functional constipation, functional diarrhea, intussusception, meconium ileus, pyloric stenosis)
 - F. **musculoskeletal disorders** (femoral anteversion, hip dislocation, internal tibial torsion, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, osteochondrosis [Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, Osgood-Schlatter disease], osteogenesis imperfecta, rickets, Scheuermann disease, scoliosis, subluxation of radial head)
 - G. **developmental disorders** (autism spectrum disorders, cryptorchidism, epispadias, failure to thrive [due to atrial septal defect, coarctation of the aorta, neglect, patent ductus arteriosus, tetralogy of Fallot, or ventricular septal defect], hypospadias, learning disorders)
 - H. **behavioral disorders** (attention deficit disorder/attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, pervasive developmental disorder, reactive attachment disorder, separation anxiety disorder, Tourette syndrome)
 - I. **trauma** (abuse [emotional, physical, sexual])
 - J. **other** (dacrocystitis, Fanconi syndrome, diabetes mellitus type 1, hemangioma, plumbism, pediatric febrile seizures, trisomy 21)

15. **Conditions generally pertaining to geriatrics (5%)**
- A. **dementia** (Alzheimer disease, non-Alzheimer dementia)
 - B. **musculoskeletal disorders** (osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, polymyalgia rheumatica)
 - C. **nervous system disorders** (cerebral vascular accident, Parkinson disease, transient ischemic attacks)
 - D. **circulatory disorders** (aneurysm, peripheral vascular disease)
 - E. **ocular disorders** (cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration)
 - F. **symptoms and concerns commonly associated with aging** (constipation, hearing impairment, iatrogenic illness, immobility, loss of balance and flexibility, muscle and joint pain, polypharmacy, pressure ulcers, undernourishment, malnourishment, urinary incontinence, urinary tract infections, vaginal atrophy, vaginal infections, vision impairment, mental health concerns [anxiety, depression, grief, mortality, social isolation])
 - G. **trauma** (elder abuse, falls, fracture)
16. **Conditions that have psychiatric, psychological, or behavioral implications (3%)**
- A. **psychotic disorders** (brief reactive psychosis, delusions, hallucinations, paranoia, schizophrenia)
 - B. **mood disorders** (bipolar disorder, cyclothymia, depression, dysthymia, mania, seasonal affective disorder)
 - C. **cognitive mental disorders** (delirium, dementia)
 - D. **anxiety disorders** (agoraphobia, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder)
 - E. **somatoform and factitious disorders** (adjustment disorder with physical complaints, conversion disorder, eating disorders, hypochondriasis, malingering, Munchausen syndrome, Munchausen syndrome by proxy, somatic symptom disorder)
 - F. **sexual disorders** (genito-pelvic pain/penetration disorder, pedophilia, sadism/masochism, voyeurism)
 - G. **personality disorders** (avoidant, borderline, dependent, histrionic, narcissistic)
 - H. **substance-related and addictive disorders** (alcohol, gambling, over-the-counter drugs, prescription drugs, street drugs, tobacco)
 - I. **trauma** (domestic violence, incest, rape)
 - J. **lifespan issues** (lifespan issues in pediatric, adolescent, adult, and geriatric populations)

Honorable Senator Felzkowski, Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
Honorable Senator Stafsholt, Vice-Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

RE: Support for Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin (SB 532) Hearing

September 29, 2021

Dear Senator Fezkowski, Senator Stafsholt, and Committee Members,

The Pediatric Association of Naturopathic Physicians (PedANP), an official affiliate of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), would like to express our support for SB 532 in regards to licensing Naturopathic Physicians in the state of Wisconsin.

Naturopathic doctors are considered primary care providers and often act in consultative roles for their patients. For pediatric care, NDs are extensively trained to assess and promote healthy growth and development, educate families on disease and illness prevention, and manage childhood acute and chronic illnesses.

To evaluate the medical training of NDs, it should be noted that all licensed practitioners are required to complete an accredited¹ four year post-graduate medical education which blends both biomedical and traditional holistic training. Institutions with the most extensive scopes of practice include pharmaceutical prescribing, vaccination administration, intravenous nutrient therapy, acupuncture, and minor surgery. Completion of two sets of standardized board exams,² as well as relevant local regulatory exams are required in all licensed jurisdictions.

Prevention of illness and disease is a main goal that NDs strive for when treating their patients. By working with children and their families to both promote and adopt healthy habits in childhood, this increases the potential for longterm individual and community health. Thus, working in pediatric care can be considered the epitome of prevention.

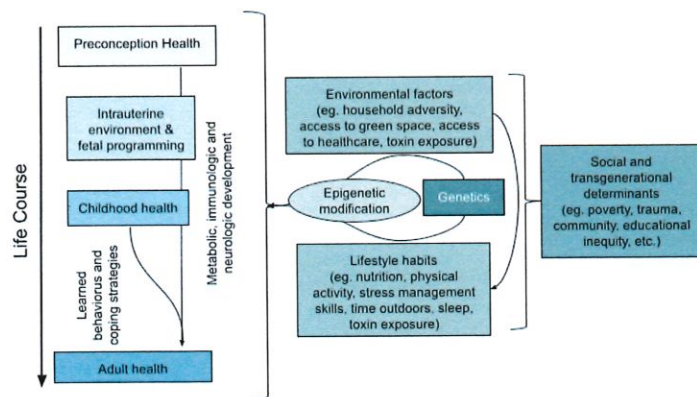


Figure 1: Many factors are established early in life that affect adult health outcomes. Some factors are modifiable, such as lifestyle habits and social behaviours. Others are pre-determined (but may be modifiable) such as preconception health, genetics, and transgenerational behaviour patterns. (informed by references [26-29])

¹ www.cnme.org

² <https://www.nabne.org/about/>

Naturopathic doctors are trained in validated screening tools for well-child checks which allow clinicians to identify developmental vulnerabilities and provide early intervention [36-39]. NDs in some jurisdictions can and do offer the full scope of recommended childhood immunizations; while jurisdictions without this authority may engage in discussions of immunization to encourage informed consent.

Laboratory assessments or diagnostic imaging, as long as deemed medically appropriate with clear rationale, may be ordered or (referred out) during a pediatric visit for screening purposes or as a strategy to confirm a diagnostic hypothesis.

Naturopathic doctors commonly rely on conventional standards of care and schools of thought to guide diagnostic reasoning and management options, while also factoring in ways to optimize a patient's diet, sleep habits, physical activity and stress levels. As such, NDs use a wide range of approaches to address health concerns in children ensuring that these recommendations are relevant to the unique factors of that child's health. This may include the use of botanical medicines, natural health products and supplements, hydrotherapy, or manual therapies. In all cases, NDs refer when appropriate to pediatric specialists.

Naturopathic doctors consider each intervention in terms of the available evidence, safety profiles, and efficacy for each particular health concern [47]. NDs adjust dosing of natural health products to the age and weight of the child [49], while mostly considering options that are least invasive and toxic to minimize any potential risks. NDs are well trained to anticipate potential interactions between natural therapies and conventional interventions the child may be using.

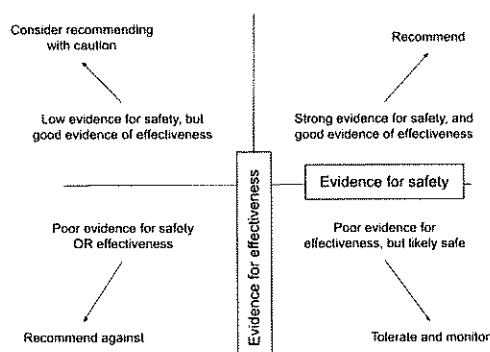


Figure 3: Naturopathic doctors consider each intervention in terms of the available evidence for its safety and efficacy in order to help the patient make informed choices for a particular scenario.

As previously mentioned, a person's overall health is significantly impacted by the health and lifestyle behaviours established during childhood. Due to limited time and opportunities that most healthcare providers have to offer support with health promotion and lifestyle changes, these medical professionals are encouraged to become familiar with the regulation of naturopathic doctors and refer patients who would benefit from competent, evidence-informed integrative care.

In conclusion, the PedANP is in support of licensing qualified NDs to practice under SB 532 in order to provide a safe, evidence-based, holistic care option to people of all ages in the great state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Corey Murphy
PedANP Executive Director

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September 29, 2021

Honorable Senator Felzkowski, Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
Honorable Senator Stafsholt, Vice-Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

RE: Support for Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin SB532/AB529 Hearing -
September 29, 2021

Dear Senator, Fezkowski, Senator Stafsholt, and Committee Members,

We at Nature's Way believe that 'healthy starts inside'. For more than 50 years, we have been driven by one mission, "to help people everywhere live healthy lives". We strongly believe in helping others embrace wellness from the inside out. Our health experts such as Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) are advocates of this mission and are an important pillar of this wellness journey. Having said that, we would like to render our strong support to the licensure of Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) in Wisconsin.

Naturopathy, a unique type of primary care medicine is a blend of traditional healing supported by scientific advances and current research. It is guided by a distinct set of principles that recognize the body's innate healing capacity, emphasize disease prevention, and encourage individual responsibility to obtain optimal health. It is a healthcare profession providing safe and effective care for all ages.^{1,2}

Licensed Naturopathic doctors (NDs) focus on prevention and treatment of acute and chronic disease. They practice healthcare across all economic, social, cultural, and geographic barriers, thereby supporting and enhancing health equity. Their specialty treatments and modalities include clinical nutrition, behavioral change, hydrotherapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, physical medicine, pharmaceuticals, and minor surgery.¹

NDs get trained by pursuing a four-year, accredited doctoral-level naturopathic medical school program, before taking on a comprehensive Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX). Passage of this exam is required to be eligible for licensure. Such schools have been experiencing an increase in enrollments and number of graduates over the last 20 years specially since the year 2000.^{1,2,3}

Naturopathic medicine reduces healthcare costs and alleviates the healthcare burden.

Naturopathy addresses the root causes of illness rather than its symptoms. This can eliminate the need for repeated, expensive, and sometimes ineffective treatments. Naturopathic medical diagnostics and treatments are often less costly than traditional treatments used in conventional medicine. This may further reduce the need for invasive, expensive surgical procedures. Many times, NDs may consider natural therapies first, before expensive prescription medications.⁴



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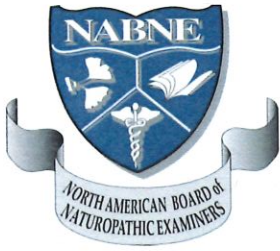
ND licensure in Wisconsin is a win-win for our community. It will not only incorporate quality healthcare, but also support practicing ND workforce and alleviate ever-increasing healthcare cost. These factors will further contribute and boost the overall economic growth of the state.

Sincerely,

Hank Cateora
Director of Sales – Practitioner and HFS Channels
Nature's Way Brands
hank.cateora@naturesway.com

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1. Fleming SA, Gutknecht NC. Naturopathy and the primary care practice. *Prim Care*. 2010;37(1):119-136. doi:10.1016/j.pop.2009.09.002
2. American Association of Naturopathic Physicians: <https://naturopathic.org/page/AboutNaturopathicMedicine>
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4. Institute of Natural Medicine: <https://naturemed.org/fag/fag-how-does-naturopathic-medicine-lower-health-care-costs/>



September 29, 2021

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 532

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Dear Senator Fezkowski, Senator Stafsholt, and Committee Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry,

A medical profession fulfills its purpose of providing safe and effective healthcare only if four elements are present:

- ▶ Accreditation of its medical colleges;
- ▶ Comprehensive medical education;
- ▶ Examination by a national examining board, using board-level examinations that are developed in accordance with national testing standards; and
- ▶ Licensing and subsequent regulation.

The North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) fulfills the necessary role of administering board-level examinations to qualified candidates.

NABNE's mission is to examine graduates of accredited naturopathic medical schools to ensure that they have mastered the competencies necessary to be safe naturopathic doctors. To fulfill its mission, NABNE administers the NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science Examination and the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations, which are the only board-level licensing examinations recognized by the jurisdictions that currently license naturopathic doctors (ND) in the United States.

The NPLEX examinations are developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. **The examinations are designed to assess whether the candidate has the minimal competence to practice naturopathic medicine safely on the public.** A frequently updated practice analysis (a survey of currently practicing licensed NDs to determine which competencies an entry-level ND must have mastered) is the necessary foundation for clinical examinations in any healthcare profession. NPLEX is preparing to initiate its fifth practice analysis in the fall of 2021.

NABNE administers the NPLEX examinations and sets policy to determine standards for qualifying to take the examinations. In setting all policies, NABNE is committed to identifying and eliminating systemic bias, and to ensuring that the administration of the NPLEX examinations is fair to all examinees, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, cultural orientation, or ability to equally access the examinations.

To qualify for licensure, the candidate must pass both NPLEX Parts I and II. The NPLEX Part I - Biomedical Science Examination may be taken after the student has completed the first two years of training at an accredited naturopathic medical school. The candidate must pass the Part I Examination and have graduated before being allowed to take the NPLEX Part II - Clinical Science Examinations (the Core Clinical Science Examination and the three elective examinations: Pharmacology, Minor Surgery, and Acupuncture).

In the MD/DO profession, the USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Examination) has a third part (Step III) that is taken after the candidate completes a residency. Because so few residencies are open to naturopathic doctors, NPLEX does not have a Part III Examination. Instead, the NPLEX Part II - Core Clinical Science Examination addresses competencies covered in the USMLE Step III Examination.

In summary, the naturopathic profession in the United States meets the standards of healthcare professions with the establishment and history of its various organizations. It is clear that the desire for naturopathic medicine is not going away. With or without regulation, demand dictates that there will be naturopathic practitioners in Wisconsin. To fulfill your mission of protecting public safety, NABNE urges you to support SB 532. This bill will ensure that naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin meet the standards inherent in all healthcare professions: graduation from an accredited naturopathic medical school, rigorous board-level examination, and licensure and regulation by a state board of naturopathic medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Braden', followed by a horizontal line and the letters 'ND'.

Shannon Braden
Associate Director, NABNE



Federation of
Naturopathic Medicine
Regulatory Authorities

**Letter of Support for
Senate Bill 532
Regulation of the Practice of
Naturopathic Medicine in Wisconsin**

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

The Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) supports regulation of naturopathic medicine in Wisconsin. Regulation is integral to the promotion of safe naturopathic medical practice 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 the need for licensure of qualified naturopathic doctors (NDs) in Wisconsin. NDs who have graduated from a CNME-accredited naturopathic medicine program have been trained to be primary care providers. When they have passed competency-based national naturopathic licensing examinations, they have demonstrated that they are competent to safely and effectively use naturopathic medicine to diagnose and treat disease and to optimize health.

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

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 states. 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).

Licensed NDs Are Safe Primary Care Providers (Cont.)

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

Wisconsin has mandated improved outcomes for chronic disease and would benefit from licensing NDs because it would increase the number of qualified primary care providers. An important aspect of primary care is the ability to prescribe drugs 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 out of 25 regulated jurisdictions allow NDs broad prescriptive authority. Disciplinary action was only taken against NDs in three of the regulated jurisdictions and, the vast majority of those actions involved opioid management, a challenging area for all licensed primary care providers.

Disciplinary Actions Related to Prescribing from 2010 to 2021*		
Jurisdiction	Disciplinary Actions	Estimated Number of Licensees
Jurisdictions with Broad Prescribing Rights EXCLUDING Opioids		
Hawaii	0	150
Idaho	0	27
New Hampshire	0	60
New Mexico	0	15
Utah	0	60
Jurisdictions with Broad Prescribing Rights INCLUDING Opioids		
California	0	900
Montana	0	105
Vermont	0	350
Oregon	12	1200
Arizona	18	1450
Washington	32	1400
TOTAL	62	5717
* Or since year of licensure.		
FNMRA interprets broad prescribing rights to mean access to all major categories of prescription drugs required for primary care.		

Licensing Laws Decrease Risk of Harm to Consumers

- **Regulation of naturopathic doctors provides consumer protections against harmful behavior**

Anytime a consumer enters into a doctor-patient relationship, there is an inherent power imbalance that places the patient at risk of harm; regulation helps to minimize this risk.

The FNMRA has tallied the number of disciplinary actions taken the U.S. against licensed naturopathic doctors from January 2010 to July 2021 (see Addendum B). The disciplinary actions are grouped by type. For example, "Physician acts that (directly) harm patients physically or emotionally." This category includes sexual boundary violations. It is essential for a regulatory structure to be in place so that patients can file complaints of sexual violations. Although disciplinary actions of this type are rare, in the last 11 years there has been only 12 licensed NDs disciplined for sexual boundary violations, out of an estimated 6,000 active licensees (0.2 % of licensed NDs). This is consistent with the percentage of sexual boundary violations by MDs/DOs.¹

Sexual boundary violations are a type of harm to the public that requires a response from regulators. Consumer protection agencies and attorneys general are not equipped to handle these types of complaints, whereas a Board of Naturopathic Medicine will have experienced administrators and will have policies and procedures in place to investigate these types of complaints. Licensing naturopathic doctors will provide the citizens of Wisconsin with a way to have this type of harm addressed and prevented.

- **Regulation provides consumer protection against lay naturopaths**

Naturopathic regulatory authorities consistently report to the FNMRA that there are many more consumer complaints against lay naturopaths than licensed naturopathic doctors. It is difficult to track this number, but we have a few examples. In 2013 in California, 6 actions were taken against licensed NDs and 51 were taken against lay naturopaths. In the past ten years in Utah, there has been one disciplinary action taken against a licensed ND and an average of one action taken per year against lay naturopaths. Lay naturopaths, because of their lack of training, can recommend dangerous or ineffectual treatments and prevent consumers from accessing appropriate care, leading to physical harm or death. Establishing a regulatory structure of licensing in Wisconsin will help educate the public on the difference between qualified naturopathic doctors and lay naturopaths as well as provide consumers formal complaint process.

1. Randy A. Sansone, MD and Lori A. Sansone, MD. "Crossing the Line: Sexual Boundary Violations by Physicians" *Psychiatry (Edgmont)*. 2009 Jun; 6(6): 45-48.

In Conclusion:

Licensure will ensure that naturopathic doctors are competent by establishing educational and practice standards. Furthermore, a naturopathic medicine regulatory structure in Wisconsin will allow enforcement of the state's rules by monitoring licensee activity and implementing disciplinary actions.

As a member of this committee, you are a champion of public safety. Your support of naturopathic medical regulation will increase number of safe primary care providers, protect the citizens of Wisconsin from untrained lay naturopaths who may cause harm, and establish a structure under which consumers can have their complaints addressed.

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 Wisconsin Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry, will lead to the establishment 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 horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Shannon Braden, ND
Executive Director, 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						3
Arizona	1		1			
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			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**

PHYSICIAN ACTS THAT (DIRECTLY) HARM PATIENTS PHYSICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY									
State	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	6	2			18	14	1	1	10
California	1								
Colorado		1							
Connecticut									
Dist. of Columbia									
Hawaii	1								
Idaho									
Kansas									
Maine									
Maryland									
Minnesota									
Montana									
New Hampshire									
New Mexico									
North Dakota									
Oregon			1	2	12	2	2	3	2
Puerto Rico									
Rhode Island									
Utah	1								
Vermont									
Virgin Islands									
Washington	8			1	32	10	4	2	2
TOTAL	17	3	1	3	62	26	7	6	14

**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



September 29, 2021

RE: Support and pass Wisconsin Bill SB 532/AB529 to license naturopathic doctors September 29, 2021

Dear Senators Felzkowski and Stafsholt,

We are respectfully submitting feedback regarding SB 532 on behalf of the Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC). The AANMC represents seven accredited campuses of naturopathic medicine in North America who confer the degree 'ND.' Accreditation in this sense refers to oversight by a) accreditors recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) such as the Higher Learning Commission on Higher Education. And b) it includes programmatic accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, which is also recognized by both the USDE and CHEA. Our ND programs and their host institutions can be found here on this government website: <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>

Naturopathic Medicine is a distinct primary health care profession that combines the traditions of natural healing with the rigors of modern science. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are trained as primary care providers who diagnose, treat and manage patients who have acute and chronic conditions, while addressing disease and dysfunction at the levels of body, mind and spirit. NDs concentrate on whole patient wellness through health promotion and disease prevention, attempting to find the underlying cause of the patient's condition. NDs care for patients of all ages and genders. They provide individualized, evidence-informed therapies, applying the least harmful and most effective approaches to help facilitate the body's inherent ability to restore and maintain optimal health.

Graduates of accredited ND programs receive a doctorate in naturopathic medicine from regionally and programmatically accredited institutions, after four years of in-residence didactic and clinical training, similar to all first professional degrees (DDS, DC, DPM, DO etc.). The training encompasses biomedical foundational coursework including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and clinical diagnosis in addition to the natural sciences and therapeutics of naturopathic medicine. Graduates use ND or NMD as the professional abbreviation for their degree. Use of professional titles (DDS, DC, DPM, DO, etc.) is protected for graduates of recognized programs in order to protect the public and clarify the scope and training of these providers for consumers. Any individual holding themselves to be a practitioner of one of these professions without the requisite training and regulation would be held to penalties under law. Additionally, NDs complete national board examinations in the biomedical and clinical sciences as administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners. Passage of this two-part examination is required for regulated practice in North America.

Naturopathic medicine is and should be no different than our other health professions colleagues in regulated practice. We are concerned about the dangerous confusion to the public with lack of regulated practice in Wisconsin.



The AANMC publishes the [Core Competencies of the Graduating Naturopathic Student](#), which outline the stringent guidelines and expectations of clinical and professional practice for licensed naturopathic doctors graduating from an accredited naturopathic program. The competencies include but are not limited to medical assessment and diagnosis, patient management, communication and collaboration (including mandated reporting requirements), professionalism, career development and practice management, systems-based practice, and practice-based learning, research, and scholarship.

There are currently 25 states and territories that regulate Naturopathic medicine. These jurisdictions allow Naturopathic doctors to use the ND designation. Some states also include N.D. as well as other terms (N.M.D or NMD).

In my nine-year tenure as executive director of the AANMC, I have regularly been made aware of complaints from patients, students and attorneys regarding unaccredited programs and their graduates. Students of these unaccredited operations have felt preyed upon, not realizing the coursework and their hard-earned money would not lead to regulated practice, and that in some circumstances could even result in them being fined and imprisoned. Patients have been harmed by dangerous and lethal medical advice from graduates of unaccredited programs, who may have had no standardized clinical or medical training. Many of these programs meet the definition of diploma or degree mill (<https://www.scholaro.com/unaccredited-universities/>).

It is unfortunate that students have had their money taken from unaccredited and non-regulated programs with the impression that they could practice medicine.

I am happy to provide all documentation demonstrating the rigorous training and standards that accredited naturopathic graduates complete and implore you all to strongly consider public safety in granting patient access to accredited naturopathic medical graduates and only accredited naturopathic graduates use of the designation ND.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Yanez, ND, MPH, CAE
Executive Director
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges



September 29, 2021

Honorable Senator Felzkowski, Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
Honorable Senator Stafsholt, Vice-Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

**RE: Support for Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin SB532/AB529 Hearing
September 29, 2021**

Dear Senator Fezkowski, Senator Stafsholt, and Committee Members,

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the national professional association representing Licensed Naturopathic Doctors, wholeheartedly supports licensure of Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) in Wisconsin. Licensed naturopathic physicians expand access to healthcare across economic, social, cultural, and geographic barriers, reducing healthcare disparities¹. Adopting ND licensure provides transparency and accountability, further protecting Wisconsin's citizenry and safeguarding its public health. Additionally, there are multiple compelling reasons to support passage of SB 532:

- **Naturopathic medicine is a distinct health care profession** providing safe and effective care for all ages. Licensure of NDs in Wisconsin will increase patient access to naturopathic health care that is, in the words of the US Senate, "[safe, effective, and affordable](#)."² NDs are specialists in natural medicine, focusing on prevention and treatment of acute and chronic disease through optimal diet, healthy lifestyle, and the utilization of natural, non-toxic therapies. The practice of naturopathic medicine combines the wisdom of nature with the rigors of modern science and evidence-based research.
- **NDs are properly trained to diagnose and treat illness and regulating the profession provides transparency for patients.** NDs eligible for licensure in the 25 jurisdictions that currently regulate NDs are graduates of four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral level programs that are accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education ([CNME](#)), an accrediting agency [recognized by the U.S. Department of Education](#).³ Graduates sit for the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX), passage of which is required to be eligible for licensure.⁴ Wisconsin patients who wish to avail themselves of the services of a Naturopathic Doctor should be assured that if a practitioner uses the "ND" or "NMD" designation, he or she possesses the credentials needed to competently practice naturopathic medicine.

¹ Call K, McAlpine D, Garcia C, Shippee N, Beeba T, Adeniyi T, et al. Barriers to care in an ethnically diverse publicly insured population: is health care reform enough? *Med Care*. 2014;52:720-27

² US Senate Resolution 420, agreed to unanimously Sep. 18, 2014.

³ For further information on accreditation by the U.S. Department of Education, see

<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>.

⁴ Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) website: <http://www.fnmra.org/ras>.

- **Naturopathic medicine reduces the financial burden on the healthcare system and overall cost of healthcare.** Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are specialists in cost-effective, safe, evidence-based preventive and natural treatment approaches, including promoting behaviors to foster health and reduce risk factors for chronic disease. Research shows that lifestyle-change programs that focus on nutritional interventions, resiliency, exercise, and emotional well-being can sometimes reverse the progression of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and high cholesterol, could save the US \$10 billion annually in reduced coronary angioplasty procedures and coronary bypass operations alone, and result in an insurance savings of almost \$30,000 per patient.⁵ The Partnership for Value-based Coordinated Care estimates the aggregate economic burden of chronic disease in Wisconsin is \$28 billion annually.⁶
- **Licensing NDs will expand access to quality healthcare in Wisconsin.** Since NDs are trained as primary care providers (PCPs), they can help address Wisconsin's shortage of PCPs, while giving patients more choices regarding their care. According to the Wisconsin Policy Project, a 2020 Kaiser Family Foundation report found that 40% of Wisconsin's need for primary care is currently unmet. Furthermore, there is an immediate need for an additional 150 primary care providers to address the shortage.⁷ Licensed NDs can help fill the gap.
- **Finally, licensing NDs is good for the economy.** In the 25 states where NDs have become regulated since 1991, the number of practicing NDs has grown on average six percent each year. Montana licensed NDs in 1991 when there were only 14 NDs in the state. Today there are over 70 practicing NDs in the state. The average annual salary of NDs practicing in licensed states is \$95,642⁸, and on average employs two staff people. There are an estimated 25 licensable NDs in Wisconsin, which when licensed could generate 50 new jobs in year one, and over 120 new jobs by 2025.

Licensing NDs in Wisconsin will benefit everyone: from the individuals seeking whole-healthcare approaches, to the NDs who practice in Wisconsin, and ultimately for the overall health of Wisconsin. Effective prevention can completely avoid or delay disease, as well as manage symptoms for those who have them. Licensure has protected the public health for 100 years - since Washington state began licensing NDs in 1919. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have, and I can be reached directly at 202-849-6306. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Laura Culberson Farr, Executive Director

⁵ Guarneri E, Horrigan BJ, Pechura CM. The efficacy and cost effectiveness of integrative medicine: a review of the medical and corporate literature. *Explore (NY)*. 2010 Sep-Oct;6(5):308-12. doi: 10.1016/j.explore.2010.06.012. PMID: 20832763

⁶ Business case for coordinated team-based care, April 2018. Accessed 9/10/2021.

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.wpha.org/resource/resmgr/2018_folder/Business_case_-_Revised_4_23.pdf

⁷ Gibbons, J., Wisconsin's Primary Care Shortage, Legislative Reference Bureau, V3, Number 5,

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/wisconsin_policy_project/primary_care_shortage_3_5.pdf

⁸ 2020 Graduate Success and Compensation Study, Accessed 10/13/2021.

<https://aanmc.org/reports-and-research/2020-graduate-success-and-compensation-study/>



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Email: info@familynaturalmedicine.com

September 29, 2021

To Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry.

My name is Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr. ND, LMT. I am a naturopathic doctor and licensed massage therapist practicing in Madison, Wisconsin. I am the Chair of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association (WNDA) and Chair of the Massage Therapy & Bodywork Therapy Board (MTBT - DSPS). I graduated from Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington earning a doctorate degree in naturopathic medicine with concentration in pain management in 2010. Naturopathic pain management utilizes counseling, inflammation modulating compounds, nutraceuticals, herbal extracts, homeopathics, and manual therapy.

I moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2011 with my wife Jacalyn who is originally from Wisconsin for her dietetic internship at Mount Mary University. I immediately started working with physiatrists, orthopedic doctors, chiropractors, acupuncturists, massage therapists and other practitioners to serve patients in the area. I noticed a growing need for integrated and holistic perspectives and protocols that suit the needs of the community who are not adequately helped with their health care concerns. Over the last decade I have worked with compassionate and forward thinking practitioners in the state of Wisconsin who practice a patient-centered approach.

There is an increasing trend of individuals seeking naturopathic medicine in the state of Wisconsin as people share testimonies and stories with each other, their families and neighborhood. We strive to help increase access to naturopathic doctors who are medically trained. We honor the belief that prevention is key in regard to decreasing the health care costs for illness and disease. We prioritize educating and empowering our patient communities. One brief example of a successful case was a younger mother with significant weight loss, chronic fatigue, systemic inflammation and cognitive deficit due to Lyme disease. After two years of individualized therapy she is now post-graduate, pregnant with her daughter, and an advocate for naturopathic medicine.

Thank you for your time,

Robert Coleman, Jr. ND
Naturopathic Doctor
FCNM

September 29, 2021

To: Chairman Felzkowski and members of the **Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry**

Subject: *Written Testimony for the bill to license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin, SB 532:*

I am Kristine Nichols, a private citizen and patient living in Whitewater, Wisconsin. I am writing to support **Senate Bill 532** on licensing naturopathic doctors in the state of Wisconsin. Thank you to Senator Bernier as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of this important bill.

I first heard of Naturopathic Medicine in 2009, after being diagnosed with a neuro-immune condition that still has no cure. After being shuffled from one specialist to another, it was a relief to find a doctor who could work with the whole me, coordinate care from any specialists that could help, explain complex medical information that I was bombarded with, and help me experiment safely with possible treatments.

What made naturopathic medicine so useful for me is precisely because my condition had no cure, or even any broadly approved treatments. Instead, we had to focus on big-picture factors like nutrition and food sensitivities, sleep hygiene, and pain management. My Naturopathic Doctor was always available; always ready to experiment with treatments that have helped others and have science-based potential.

A Naturopathic Doctor *is* a primary care physician, with a different set of tools to work with than the conventional internist. I learned to really appreciate that. In my experience, naturopathic medicine differs philosophically from conventional medicine. Naturopathic Doctors treat the whole you, trying to optimize your health, rather than just treat an illness. I am worlds better off today because of that resource and help when I didn't fit well into conventional medicine's paradigm.

My Naturopathic Doctor is also the most economical place to start when I need health care – no small factor in today's healthcare arena – not just in doctor bills but also helping me to avoid costly medication with more natural solutions.

I found my Naturopathic Doctor because when I needed help, she was involved in a study on my disease through the National Institute of Health. I have had a wonderful experience. But I'm lucky. Without licensing, there is no set way to know if someone with whom you seek help is actually medically trained in Naturopathic Medicine or has lay-level training. I see licensing first as a safety and clarity measure for patients.

Second, licensing will also attract more qualified Naturopathic Doctors to Wisconsin, creating more health care choices and value. I currently travel one hour to see my Naturopathic Doctor. More licensed NDs means more choice for and access to health care in Wisconsin. That's good for everyone.

Finally, though the collaborative work with conventional medicine is valuable to me, my naturopathic doctor is limited without licensing and unable to provide the full value and benefit their education could offer. With a naturopathic doctor's full toolset at their disposal, their value to patients only expands.

Thank you for considering this very important matter and for allowing me to testify. I hope you will also support this bill to increase and improve safe healthcare choices for Wisconsin.

Kristine Nichols
Whitewater, WI



DATE: 9/27/21

POSITION: SUPPORT SB 532

To whom it may concern

I ask for your support in licensing naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, naturopathic doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, Naturopathic Doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

Naturopathic Doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for Naturopathic Doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

I am an internist who has been in practice for the past 25 years. I realized that traditional medicine was great to treat acute issues but I saw that most people came in with a lot of chronic health issues. My interest in trying to help these patients led me to do a fellowship in integrative medicine. As I started practicing more of complimentary medicine I started sharing patients with Naturopathic Doctors and realized that the basis of treating chronic health conditions was naturopathic medicine.

A lot of patients are seeking a naturopathic approach and many states are recognizing their potential and are giving them a license to prescribe. I think it is time we woke up to our health care crisis of chronic illness and traditional medicine that is failing.

It would be prudent to have Naturopathic Doctors who can align with other integrative medicine physicians to treat patients as a whole rather than the fragmentation that I see in traditional medicine.

I have worked with Dr Axtell, a licensable Naturopathic Doctor, on many occasions and have seen remarkable progress and improvement in health in many of our shared patients.

I urge this committee to give Senate Bill 532 a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

Dr Malini Mehta MD
Internal Medicine, Integrative Medicine
Advocate Aurora Health Care
2424 S 90th street
West Allis Wisconsin 53151

Kami Hansen
2850 Cty Rd BB
Cottage Grove, WI 53527-8862

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

As a chiropractor, I routinely refer my patients to Naturopathic Doctors in my area. My patients are looking for and need options for care outside of the traditional western medicine system. Utilizing ND's allows for a more collaborative approach to patients health care and well being.

I strongly support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Kami Hansen



Dr. Chloe Scheel, ND, Lac

Kwan-Yin Healing Arts Center

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WISCONSIN LICENSURE - SENATE BILL 532

I am from Wausau, Wisconsin, and I would love to come back to Wisconsin to provide naturopathic medical care for Wisconsinites. But, I will not until Wisconsin licenses NDs and I can practice as I am trained. I am currently practicing with a full scope as a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) in Portland, Oregon. I have completed a four-year doctorate of natural medicine, a three-year masters of acupuncture and a two year post graduate residency in digestive disease, women's health and primary care. I currently have a thriving private practice where I have over 400 active primary care patients and am offering a residency next year to new graduate. My clinical focus is primary care, women's health and fertility. In Oregon, a naturopath's scope of practice is the exact same as a traditional medical doctor (MD) - we prescribe medications, order labs/imaging, interpret results, refer to specialists, and so much more.

As a naturopath, my primary focus is on prevention - a very important piece to healthcare that is often missed due to lack of time, regulations around coding and billing, and minimal education on the importance of diet and lifestyle. Naturopaths have extensive training in prevention and are not only able to treat disease but also are able to spend the time with patients to educate them on how to prevent future disease. Unfortunately, with a shortage of doctors and a very concerning increase in physician burnout, this in-depth evaluation of a patient's small signs and symptoms gets missed until a bigger problem is found. For example, in Wisconsin, diabetes is a huge concern. As a naturopath, we are trained to assess a patient's risk based on family history and current diet and lifestyle. Early interventions including regular blood sugar checks, dietary counseling, well researched nutrient support, can prevent a future diagnosis of diabetes. This will ultimately lead to a decrease in healthcare cost, frequency of doctor visits, and most importantly, an increase in the quality of life for the patient.

Why am I so passionate about Wisconsin's regulation of naturopaths? I hope to move back to Wausau, Wisconsin in the next few years to be closer to my family and friends. The regulation of ND's in the state is a HUGE concern of mine. I currently have friends and family interested in a more natural and preventative approach to their health, but are getting inadequate and often dangerous recommendations and treatments due to the lack of regulation. By moving forward with regulating ND's, this not only allows for more primary care physicians, but it also prevents those who are not adequately trained in naturopathic medicine from practicing medicine on patients who are unfamiliar with the difference between a 4-year medical school trained ND and a person who is choosing to use the word naturopath/ND without any training.

I would love the opportunity to speak with anyone on the importance of regulation of Naturopaths in Wisconsin. I understand time is valuable, but I hope this note shows my concern and desire for the regulation in Wisconsin. With having a full-time practice in a state with a full scope of practice, I hope I can provide insight to what a forward move in providing the option to alternative care to the people of Wisconsin may provide. I hope I can shed some light on what naturopathic medicine is and how it is actively practiced and regulated in Oregon. I am also happy to provide contacts with other specialties - MD's, DO's, chiropractors, etc. - who work in Oregon and have first-hand experience with coordinating care with naturopathic doctors.

I appreciate your time in reading my letter.

Dr. Chloe Scheel

Paul Bergquist, MD
E8903 Apple Lane
Viroqua Wisconsin 54665
docpaul13@yahoo.com
608-778-7447

September 29, 2021

Re: Support for Senate Bill 532

To the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

I ask for your support in licensing naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. While our state searches for solutions to prevent the growing rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and post-infectious chronic disease, naturopathic doctors can meet the need for a cost-effective and patient-focused approach to health care. Using diet and lifestyle change as the basis of primary care, naturopathic doctors empower patients to restore health and prevent disease.

Naturopathic doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for naturopathic doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor for drug-herb interactions or safe dosages of nutritional supplements.

I have practiced family medicine for the last 35 years, and have incorporated many naturopathic techniques into my practice, such as acupuncture, homeopathy, botanical medicine, functional medicine and nutrition. They have proven successful for many patients, especially when traditional allopathic approaches have failed.

I authored the chapter on Therapeutic Homeopathy for Dave Rakel's textbook on Integrative Medicine, now in its fourth edition. I had originally applied to the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in 1979, and was accepted there as well as at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where I ultimately decided to go. I don't regret that decision, but I believe now as I did then, that we MD's have a lot to learn from our fellow naturopaths, who also go through a rigorous 4 year training program, especially in the diagnosis and management of chronic disease.

Licensure of naturopaths is offered in 20 states, with 7 more that have bills pending for licensure. I believe it is time to have Wisconsin join the ranks, and offer our patients more options for their care, especially with respect to the management and prevention of chronic disease.

I urge the committee to give this bill a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

Paul Bergquist, MD

Former Medical Director, Vernon Memorial Hospital Family Practice and Complementary Medicine

Former Medical Director, Vernon Memorial Hospice Program

Former Medical Director, Soldier's Grove Health Care Services Nursing Home 3rd district

Retired from active medical practice July 2021

DROESSLER CHIROPRACTIC

6000 Monona Drive, Suite 201

Monona, Wi. 53716

September 29, 2021

Re: ND Licensing

Dear Legislators:

My name is William Droessler, D.C., and I am writing to inform you of my experience with my ND both as a patient and a clinician. I live in McFarland and have practiced Chiropractic in Dane County since 1979, currently in Monona, Wi.. I sought ND care with Dr. Aaron Henkel, N.D. several years ago because I share the same philosophy of "cause" to determine the needs of patients and I wanted to be pro-active in my healthcare choices from a nutritional and optimal functional perspective in my blood work. I feel Dr. Henkel's acumen in the field of nutrition and blood analysis is impressive and his recommendations for my personal goals have been very beneficial. While I have a working knowledge of these topics, his pedagogical experience is far superior to mine when it comes to blood and nutritional analysis and because of that I have referred several of my own patients and immediate family members for his expertise. I consider Dr. Henkel my primary care provider because he is medically trained and practices Functional Medicine. It has been my experience that he would refer for additional diagnostics for patients demonstrating such a need and he would refer to other specialists as a co-management protocol when necessary. I feel his training has enabled him to determine when that is appropriate. I am of the opinion he and other NDs with the same/similar credentialing deserve to be licensed and practice to the full extent what they have been taught to offer patients seeking their help. Furthermore, the cost of his care has been very reasonable in comparison to my experience at conventional medical clinics in the Madison area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and feel free to contact me if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Droessler, D.C.

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I was struggling with multiple visits and large bills to Monroe Clinic but not getting better for it. I decided to try my Naturopathic Doctor as well. It turns out she educated me more than my other doctors, provided me with access to the correct testing, and empowered me to change my situation through listening and stewarding. Her rates were completely fair, her patience astounding, her office welcoming- not scary or sterile-, her resources life changing. If not for her I know I would not have improved easily. Visits were enjoyable and always left me hopeful.

I would prefer for her to provide my primary care, and she is currently helpful as collaborative care. I completely trust my ND and recommend her to everyone I know. Please help ND's in Wisconsin because they help us!!!

Sincerely,

Brenda Massei
N8102 sandy hook road
Brooklyn, WI 53521-9729



Orit Vardi Tragash ND, LAc

313 Price Place, Suite 113, Madison, WI 53705 • 608.335.9298 • info@yarrownaturalmedicine.com
www.yarrownaturalmedicine.com

Date: 09/29/2021

Subject: I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors

Dear [[Recipient's Title and Name]]:

My name is Orit Vardi Tragash, a Naturopathic Doctor practicing in Madison, WI for five years. I urge you to support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors. Licensing Naturopathic Doctors improves public safety, access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

I currently serve patients from all parts of Wisconsin. I support both adult and pediatric patients with a focus on digestive health, women's health, and mental health. Many patients seek me as they are interested in a provider that specializes in natural medicine. Many times they have been to several providers prior to seeing me, without improvement in their health concerns.

Naturopathic Doctors are highly trained as primary care providers. I received my Bachelor degree from UW-Madison and went on to receive my Naturopathic medical degree at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, OR. Naturopathic medical education includes standard medical curriculum as well as natural therapeutics and disease prevention. NDs participate in over 900 supervised clinical and observational hours during their Naturopathic education. We must also pass the two-part Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam (NPLEX), which covers basic sciences, diagnostic and therapeutic subjects, and clinical sciences.

Licensure would provide a strong benefit for my patients. Currently I serve as adjunctive care for all my patients. Being cared for by multiple providers can leave patients feeling overwhelmed and confused. Licensure would allow patients to choose the qualified provider best suited to them. Having the ability to practice in the full scope of my training would allow me to provide more comprehensive care for those I serve. Providing the best care to my patients is my top priority.

I urge you to support this bill, which would give Wisconsin residents greater choice and access in finding qualified health providers.

Sincerely,

Orit Vardi Tragash, ND, LAc.

September 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

First, thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill.

Second, I am writing to you today to show my support for the licensing of Naturopathic Doctors (NDs). My life has been radically improved by the support of my ND, and I have no motivation for writing this letter other than to help others experience the same positive impact that I experienced.

I met Dr. Joanne Aponte, ND, at Lakeside Natural Medicine in early 2019. I found Lakeside on Google and was impressed by the raving reviews.

Previously, I had seen four doctors in an effort to heal my acid reflux. Within a period of a year or so, my acid reflux got so bad that I lost 20lbs and couldn't sleep at night. My family and friends thought I was terminally ill just by looking at me. The doctors I saw thought prilosec was the answer. I was 28 at the time, this did not feel like an adequate solution to me. I then spent another few months trying to play my own doctor. I'm an engineer, not a doctor, so I put in the time to research online but I didn't really know what I was doing.

Within months of seeing Dr. Aponte, I was seeing more progress than years of seeking help from MDs. I was impressed by how many questions were asked in my initial visit. It was clear that the Lakeside NDs are trained to do extensive research before jumping to any conclusions on condition or treatment. To me, this felt safer than anything I've experienced in a more traditional hospital setting. The results were encouraging, so I put full faith in Dr. Aponte, and within a year from beginning to end, we were able to heal my stomach entirely, allowing me to sleep through the night, regain the 20lbs that I had lost, and ultimately allowing me more time to be a better father and husband.

Now, years later, I have never felt better. And despite paying out of pocket, I'm sure that this route ended up saving me large sums of money that otherwise would have been spent on endless additional hospital visits and medical procedures. This experience was life changing for me to say the least. Ever since then, we have had numerous similar experiences with NDs for our family health needs. There is no doubt that NDs serve a place in society, and that by offering the same licensing benefits to NDs as MDs, perhaps others may experience the same life changing results that me and my family have been fortunate enough to experience.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jesse DePinto

1845 N Farwell Ave. Suite 100

Milwaukee, WI 53202





29 September 2021

Madame Speaker and Members of the Senate,

I would like to thank Senator Bernier for her tireless support of Naturopathic Doctors, and Senators Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of this bill.

My name is Kristi Kiel and I am a Naturopathic Doctor. I live in Washburn, Wisconsin and have a private practice in Ashland, Wisconsin. I serve the citizens of northern Wisconsin and have many patients who drive 1-2 hours to seek my services. I am writing to urge you to vote in support of SB 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin.

I received a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Oregon and a Naturopathic Doctorate degree from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. My naturopathic training was a 4-year post graduate in-person training program that included many hours of clinical training.

SB 532 will allow me to practice medicine in the way that I was trained to practice, by allowing me to order lab tests to facilitate diagnosis and treatment of my patients. By setting up standards to determine which natural health practitioners can call themselves "Naturopathic Doctors", SB 532 will ensure that the citizens of Wisconsin can choose to be treated by well-trained professional doctors of natural medicine.

Many Naturopathic Doctors are reticent to live in a state that does not provide the protection and privileges afforded by licensing. By becoming a state that licenses Naturopathic Doctors, Wisconsin will draw in more practitioners and increase the availability of naturopathic medicine to Wisconsinites. This is particularly important in the sparsely populated areas of northern Wisconsin where many people have to drive for hours to see a provider like myself.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for working to make Wisconsin a better place.

Sincerely,

Kristi J Kiel, ND, PhD



Human Nature, LLC
401 Bryce Canyon Cir
Madison WI, 53705
(608) 301-9961

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Senate Insurance, Licensing and Forestry Committee,

Thank you, Senator Bernier, and Representative Rodriguez for your efforts. Senator Felzkowski, thank you for your dedication to the natural health community. Thank you to all the Senators who have supported natural healthcare providers in our state.

I am here today to provide testimony and demonstrate that my education and training qualify me as a Naturopathic Doctor who has provided years of dedicated and safe service.

My name is Katy Wallace, and I am a naturopathic doctor. I am here today because the ND licensing bill, SB532, takes the ND title out of the public realm and would fence me out.

I have been practicing as a naturopathic doctor in Wisconsin since 2007. I received my ND degree from Trinity College of Natural Health which included over 1300 hours of study. In addition, I undertook 1500 hours of clinical training with a naturopathic doctor. Prior to this, I worked as a research scientist after completing my Master of Science in Environmental Studies at UW-Madison and a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Carleton College. I have published three scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals resulting from my research in environmental sciences.

I have extensive training in functional blood chemistry and therapeutic nutrition. I have completed the following professional training courses: Mastering Brain Chemistry, Mastering the Thyroid, Functional Endocrinology, Functional Blood Analysis, Advanced Functional Blood Chemistry, and Food Allergies and Sensitivities. I also have completed Loomis Institute of Digestive Health Training, Healing with Whole Foods Training with Paul Pitchford, and Biomedx trainings in urinalysis among many other trainings and certifications.

I have fourteen years of experience as a naturopathic doctor, serving over 3,700 clients. My experience includes working as a naturopathic doctor for Group Health Cooperative and the Willy Street Co-op. I have served as a lecturer on multiple occasions to UW Doctors in Residence, and other groups at UW Health and the community. In my day-to-day work, I offer people gentle, non-invasive ways to support health.

The current bill specifically fences established naturopathic doctors that have been practicing in this state due to qualification requirements. As you have heard through previous testimonies, many of us have practicing in the state safely for 10-20 years and have built successful small businesses.

There is a simple, logical, and most importantly a safe solution, which would be to grandfather in all currently practicing NDs. I ask for your help in this effort.

Thank you.


Katy Wallace, ND

Thank you Senator Felzkowski and Committee Members for allowing me to speak. My name is Maureen Henderson and I am here from Evansville Wisconsin on behalf of my Naturopathic Doctor, Angela Rahm, in opposition of ND SB Bill 532.

I was diagnosed with Graves Disease over 35 years ago when I was in my early 20's. I was treated by conventional western medicine specialists in the field of endocrinology off and on for 3 decades for this diagnosis. There were times that it was very debilitating and other times that things seemed to be just ok. Basically, majority of my life, my symptoms would come and go and my doctors just prescribed medication to attempt to regulate my thyroid and mask the symptoms when things weren't great. No one ever really explained to me what caused my thyroid issues or the fluctuations and when I asked I was told it just happens. I always tried to take care of my health and watch my diet, exercised often and for the most part I thought I was pretty healthy even though I'd have rough patches where my thyroid issues would flare up. No one ever gave me any answers as to why or what could be causing it.

7 years ago, my husband was in a work related accident that left him permanently disabled. This obviously caused a great deal of stress for me between becoming his caregiver rather than his partner, becoming the sole income provider while still raising children, and dealing with insurance companies, bill collectors and lawyers on top of the emotional aspect of accepting the loss of our relationship as we knew it for 35 years. I was burning the candle from both ends and within a few short months after my husband's accident I was emotionally, financially and ultimately physically a mess and my health began to deteriorate quickly. I ended up in the hospital due to heart palpitations and after being seen by multiple specialists I was encouraged to have my thyroid removed. My Graves Disease was out of control so my heart was racing and my thyroid was very enlarged. I was completely exhausted and not functioning well.

For 30+ years I just trusted my doctors but now that my husband was disabled and I was the sole income provider and I was being told I needed surgery I started asking more questions. I clearly remember discussing the need for surgery and asking if there was any specific type of diet I could follow or any other options.

I knew I was so busy taking care of my husband and family and that I wasn't taking care of myself and thought maybe there was a correlation but I was told there was no diet or treatment that was going to regulate me at this point and that this was an auto-immune condition and the best advice was to have it removed as soon as possible as it was now detrimental to my heart. I went ahead with the surgery on March 27, 2015 out of fear I would have a heart attack if I didn't. There were some complications from my surgery and things went from bad to worse quickly. I lost my voice due to damage to my vocal cords, I had severe dysphagia from scar tissue and within 8 weeks I gained 40 lbs, I'm only 4' 11" so you can imagine that was A LOT on my small body. My hair began falling out in handfuls, I could barely

get out of bed and I went from being on 0 prescription drugs pre surgery to 5 prescriptions in a couple months due to all of these new symptoms post surgery.

I was about to be prescribed my 6th prescription which was an anti-depressant because I was now told it was just depression from the big hormonal shift my body just went through. That's when I decided enough is enough and I went to see Dr. Angie. She took the time to ask all the questions and discuss all of my symptoms and everything that led up to it. She educated me on how stress totally affects the thyroid through the nervous and endocrine systems and showed me clinical studies published in Pub Med and other sources on how important diet and self care are for thyroid conditions. She took the time to ask the questions that helped her discover that I was living on caffeine and fast food due to lack of time and energy and explained to me how caffeine amplifies heart palpitations, tremors and anxiety in people with my diagnosis.

She's given me more resources and taught me more about my body than I ever learned in the 30 years prior. She helped me find a healthy diet and gave me multiple peer reviewed studies on supplements and resources to regain my health. Dr. Angela is extremely knowledgeable about thyroid and digestive health issues and how my diet, stress and lifestyle play an important role in my healing and quality of life. I can stand here today and tell you that I was literally at the lowest point I ever hope to be in my lifetime just a few short years ago. I literally didn't know how I'd get through another day. I was barely able to get out of bed much less work and function. Every time I went to the doctor I was shipped around from specialist to specialist and just given more prescriptions which then caused even more side effects.

I can barely even bring myself to remember how poor my mental and physical health were before I worked with Dr. Angela's. I know there is a place and time for medical doctors and I'm grateful for their expertise and education but I can also tell you that I gave up on western medicine for this particular health issue as their only solutions were surgery and more and more drugs and I was not willing to take one more prescription drug.

The only reason I was willing to go see Dr. Angela is because I heard that she was a board certified "naturopathic doctor" and I decided I needed to try to find another solution to try to get to the root of my health issues.

This Bill, if approved, would eliminate many providers like Dr. Angela willing to share their knowledge and expertise who do actually take the time to get to the root of the problems rather than mask them with meds. It became painfully clear to me a couple years ago that my thyroidectomy was never the solution to my health problems as all of my original symptoms still reappear even without my thyroid, if I allow myself to become overly stressed and if I do not take care of myself. I truly believe if I had found an ND as caring and knowledgeable as Dr. Angie prior to having my surgery, I would still have my thyroid and parathyroids today. Thankfully, I never did have to get on that anti-depressant and was even able to get off 4 of the 5 prescription drugs I was on post surgery due to following the advice and care of Dr.

Angie. Unfortunately I didn't find her before my surgery so I do now have to rely on thyroid medication to live the rest of my life but I can tell you that as far as I'm concerned this woman saved my life and I wouldn't be able to stand here today healthy, happy and fully functioning if I continued down the path I was on.

When considering the passing of this Bill, I hope you keep in mind that it is really no different than suddenly deciding my accountant who graduated from UW Whitewater is no longer capable of using their CPA credentials just because their colleagues decide they aren't as qualified because they didn't graduate from say, UW Madison. This would be setting a precedent for any profession to suddenly decide the many years of schooling and the many thousands of dollars spent on education could just be for nothing 10, 15, 20 years into their profession.

This Bill is a frivolous attempt to eliminate many highly educated, fully competent naturopathic doctors from their profession, their passion and their gifts to truly help people get well. Therefore, again, I strongly oppose the passing of Bill 532.

Maureen Henderson

Oppose NO to ND Bill BS 532 unless all practitioners can be grandfathered in!



September 29, 2021

Senator Felzkowski, Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Senator Stafsholt, Vice-Chair, Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

**RE: Support for Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin (SB 532/AB529)
September 29, 2021**

Dear Senators Felzkowski and Stafsholt, and Committee members,

On behalf of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), I am writing in support of the licensure of naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin.

The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education is the only U.S. federally recognized national accrediting agency for naturopathic medicine doctoral programs. Similar to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)—the accreditor for MD programs—the CNME is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Also similar to LCME—which is composed of medical educators, medical doctors, medical students and public members—CNME is composed of naturopathic medical educators, naturopathic medical doctors and public members, and relies on feedback from a wide range of stakeholder groups in developing and revising its accreditation standards.

The CNME accredits four-year programs in naturopathic medicine that are primarily residential and that lead to the Doctor of Naturopathy (ND) degree; ND programs are a minimum of 4,100 hours in length and typically require four years of full-time study to complete. These programs prepare students to become licensed naturopathic medical doctors. The institutions of higher education in the U.S. that offer CNME-accredited ND programs are all also accredited by institutional accrediting agencies recognized by the Secretary of Education, and the ND degree is authorized by the respective state boards of education where the institutions are located. For more information on CNME, please refer to our website: www.cnme.org.

Like conventional medicine, the practice of naturopathic medicine requires extensive knowledge and expertise—not only in natural approaches to healthcare, but also in the clinical and biomedical sciences typically taught in MD programs (e.g., pharmacology). CNME is the only accrediting agency that has developed high standards for the education of naturopathic doctors. These standards are used directly or indirectly as a basis for licensure by the 22 states that license naturopathic doctors, as well as by the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They provide assurance to the public—who are increasingly using complementary and alternative approaches to healthcare—that graduates of ND programs are competent, safe and effective healthcare providers.

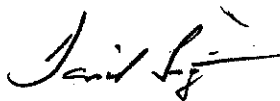
COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

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

Due to lack of licensure in Wisconsin, the public has no way of distinguishing between highly trained naturopathic practitioners and others who lack the extensive education needed for safe and competent practice. Requiring graduation from a CNME-accredited or pre-accredited (candidate) naturopathic medical program is currently the only method of ensuring a high level of training in the U.S. The Wisconsin legislature and the professional licensing agency can rely upon CNME's extensive and demanding accreditation standards and process as a basis upon which to establish naturopathic licensure.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for considering my comments.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Seitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD
Executive Director

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I have been an assistant in an ND's office for only a month, but immediately impressed with the level of professionalism, care and compassion each patient receives. I've talked with new patients as well as patients who have returned for 15 years. Patients are genuinely appreciative of the care they receive. Lab tests are used regularly to help establish wellness plans. Patients seem to feel better as they seem happy to comply with recommendations. This is truly a great option for health care, but not my first introduction to ND's.

I have lived with episodes of fatigue and pain since I was in my early 20's. My medical doctors have not been able to treat or conclusively provide a diagnosis. So, almost 20 years ago I sought out care from an ND. Naturopathic medicine has helped me live a less painful, more energetic life. The ND I saw 20 years ago and the one I still see today are both fully medically trained and educated. They are Naturopathic Doctors. And, I believe this distinction makes a difference. Barbers in WI are required to be licensed, I believe its time we treat our bodies and health with the same degree of care as we treat our hair. Once we do, I think the relationship between M,D's and N.D.'s will improve thus improving the quality of care for patients who benefit from both. Licensure will also allow medically educated ND's to fully practice in the manner they were trained which will also improve patient care.

Frankly I'm confused as to why this is even a debate. We license barbers and massage therapists, to mention a few professions, to ensure we get our hair cut and receive massages from people fully trained. Doesn't it follow people want the at least the same level of quality control in regards to health care? Don't we want all doctors to be licensed?

Sincerely,

Sara Roang
4122 Mandan Cres
Madison, WI 53711-3008



September 29, 2021

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Dear Senator Fezkowski, Senator Stafsholt, and Honorable Committee Members,

We are writing to strongly encourage you to pass SB532/AB529, an act to regulate and license naturopathic doctors.

The Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine (AIHM) was formed as a bold response to a call to action for change — to transform the way we think about health and health care. The Academy is home to an international community of healthcare practitioners, health seekers, and advocates connected by a shared philosophy of person-centered care. We represent the voice of a variety of integrative health practitioners, including MDs, DOs, NPs, and NDs, among several other disciplines.

We are strong supporters of licensing naturopathic doctors. They serve a unique role in the health care system and care of patients and should be recognized to the full extent of their education and training. The NDs who would be eligible for licensure under this bill are graduates of four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral level programs that are accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Graduates must then sit for the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX), passage of which is required to be eligible for licensure.

They are trained as specialists in natural medicine for primary care, and the treatment approaches learned by NDs emphasize the importance of identifying and treating the root causes of chronic illness, the necessity of preventive care, and the value of proactive patient self-care. Naturopathic doctors emphasize prevention and lifestyle medicine that is aligned with the highest goals of the best medical practices.

Licensed NDs work in tandem with other health care professionals and constitute a critical component of a comprehensive health care system. NDs hold high the importance of the doctor-patient relationship, emphasize whole-person medicine, and are able to address psychosocial determinants of health. NDs are experts in the application of therapeutic nutrition, botanical medicine, and other natural medicine approaches. Their referral patterns, both to and from medical colleagues for diagnostic and treatment support, are consistent with medical peers and expectations for safe and effective practice. In states with licensing, they are increasingly integrated into regular medical delivery, including working in community clinics, Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHC), county health departments, hospitals, and university clinics.

Surveys consistently show that patient demand for naturopathic medicine is growing and regulating NDs protects patients. Public health issues arise when there is no licensure, as citizens are not sure about the education and training of those who might call themselves NDs if there is no title protection or scope defined for the practice of naturopathic medicine. Licensing NDs provides choices to consumers who seek whole health approaches and options, or for whom conventional medicine has not resolved their illnesses, while protecting the public by ensuring appropriate training, competency, and regulatory standards.

These and other factors are driving the need for knowledgeable, credentialed health professionals trained in an interdisciplinary and science-based approach to integrative health and medicine. The AIHM strongly supports this effort to license NDs and looks forward to welcoming Wisconsin to the growing community of more than 25 states, districts and territories that regulate NDs in the United States.


Yours sincerely,



Mimi Guarneri, MD, FACC, ABOIM
Founding President



Lucia Thornton, RN, MSN, AHN-BC, ThD
Immediate Past Board Chair.



Brad Jacobs, MD, MPH, ABOIM
Past Board Chair



Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I am writing to strongly encourage you to license ND's in our state. I have lived in other states and they are licensed there. I choose to have a functional medicine practitioner, like ND, for my primary care person. I have done this my entire adult life. I am now in my 70's. I am currently working well with Dr. Allison Becker in Evansville. She is on top of everything I need and is very professional in every way. I have been handled with extreme care and she listens very carefully to everything I say. She is medically trained and has added certifications to broaden her scope of care. She attends classes to keep on top of her profession. She takes my health care seriously. The problem I have in this state is that she cannot order labs and other protocols and have them covered by my healthcare insurance. I would like to have ND's and other functional medicine practitioners have the same rights as allopathic practitioners have had in this state for decades. They provide equal benefit, just coming at it from a slightly different angle. The view that one method is better than the other is narrow-minded and leaves a large portion of the population without proper coverage.

These practitioners have been pushed to the sideline for too long. Their methods have been around for centuries and yet have also kept up with current needs. It's time for WI to move forward with an outdated system of only licensing a certain segment of the medical population. Thank you in advance for making the right choice in this matter.

Sincerely,
Peggy Jane Albertson

Sincerely,

Peg Albertson
1009 Summit Ave
Stoughton, WI 53589-2577

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate bill 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I am writing in support of licensure for Naturopathic Doctors.

Our daughter graduated from evergreen state college with a BS in science. She then graduated from National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon with a Doctorate degree in Naturopathic Medicine and a Masters degree in Oriental Medicine.

This was 12 years of intense schooling.

During some of this time here in Wisconsin, I began seeing a "naturopath" who had several certificates from schools. These were short courses and correspondence courses. She helped me with nutritional advice but mostly sold me a lot of supplements often more than \$200 a month! As my daughter continued her schooling, I began to see the distinct differences in education and treatments.

My daughter returned to Wisconsin to practice 15 years ago. I have seen her practice grow and hear from people in the community how she has helped them. She could help more people if she were allowed to use all the knowledge she has. I know she has the education to back up her advice and treatments and that gives me confidence.

In summation, Wisconsin needs licensure for naturopathic doctors with her education to clarify and set them apart from NDs that are not graduates of an accredited program.

Sincerely,

Ramona Becker
210 North Third Street
Evansville, WI 53536-1035

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I have been a patient of naturopathic doctors and I believe it is important to have more choices in health care. I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

Sincerely,

Dorota Bussey
46829 Benson Road
Ashland, WI 54806-4440

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

It has been an essential alternative to pharmaceuticals for me. My naturopathic doctor works with my general practitioner to approach my health care with alternatives that work for me .

Sincerely,

Paulette Davis
4210 Castlemoor dr
Janesville, WI 53546-8416

September 29th, 2021

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

First, I would like to thank Senators Bernier, Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the naturopathic doctor bill. My name is Justine Vaughan, I am 35 years old and live in Wild Rose, Wi. I am a Registered Nurse and Advanced Dementia Care Specialist for the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Wi. It is my honor to share with you why ND's should be licensed in the state of Wisconsin.

About a year ago, I began to experience body aches and had a hard time focusing. I was experiencing memory problems and high levels of anxiety and depression. It got so bad that I finally made an appointment with my local medical clinic and discussed my concerns with my primary care provider. She suggested I take an antidepressant called Fluoxetine. Five years ago, I took Citalopram for depression but immediately went off it due to insomnia and GI problems. I became concerned with the recommendation and explored with my physician an alternative route. I went home and did some research and came across some compelling information regarding treating myself with a wholistic approach and found an ND in my area. I reached out to her and after an hour of in-depth conversation regarding my medical history she came up with a recommendation to fix the cause of the symptoms. She gave me supplement recommendations and educated me. I knew without a doubt that THIS is actually what I needed. I took the recommended supplements and noticed an improvement right away. Not only do I think ND's improved my life for the better but I believe they can help improve everyone's life for the better. ND's are trained as primary care providers and should be able to practice as nothing less. They should be able to diagnose, treat and prescribe like any other primary care provider.

Everyone deserves alternatives for treatment. In part of my work, I work with the elderly veterans with various stages of dementia and with that, I work with many physicians that medicate to help the symptoms of dementia but like I mentioned above these medications have side effects. These patients deserve alternatives. They deserve to be able to explore the less harmful forms of treatment that are being used in states that license naturopathic doctors. This disease is becoming more and more common and if it continues this way, we could potentially triple by 2050 costing the nation billions and billions of dollars. This disease starts decades earlier and naturopathic medicine can potentially help prevent, slow, reduce harm and save the government a lot of taxpayers money.

I whole heartedly believe those who seek treatment via an ND will live much healthier and happier lives than before. I believe diseases will decrease and the cost of health care will decrease. People should have the freedom and option to choose naturopathic medical care.

Thank you,
Justine Vaughan
N7023 W. Pine Lake Rd.
Wild Rose, Wi

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

They provide the information that we need to prevent, slow and eliminate health issues in the natural way and without secondary effects.

Sincerely,

Adolfo Parra
608 South Main st
Edgerton, WI 53534-2036

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My chronic medical conditions are best treated through a qualified Naturopathic Doctor who can help me navigate long-term suffering through lifestyle and dietary changes along with the proper supplements and medication. I need and want my ND to have the full scope of her training with prescriptive rights, rights to order images and tests, and to be empowered to fully diagnose and manage my health. Limits put on her access are limits put on my care.

Please support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Eva Stefanski
3111 E Hampshire St
Milwaukee, WI 53211-3117

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

Naturopathic Doctors helped me heal myself of fatigue brain fog and joint issues that I had been looking for answers to in western medicine for over 7 years. I had seen pain specialist, gotten brain scans, joint scans, sleep assessments, psychological analysis and was at an end thinking there was no answer. NDs were able to truly listen and dig down to find the real root causes and help me regain my life.

Sincerely,

Buck Sugden
1521 harrison st
Kaukauna, WI 54130-1177

Sept 29, 2021

re: in support of Senate bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors

TO: Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

My journey and my experience with my Naturopathic Doctor began over 10 years ago. I had always wanted to discover what natural medicine had to offer me, and being in my mid-fifties was ready to try another way to approach my healthcare and well-being.

I found Dr. Allison Becker in Janesville and decided her medical training in not only Naturopathic Medicine but additional education in Acupuncture were good reasons to drive 45 minutes to her clinic. My initial medical problem was being fatigued all day, even after a full nights sleep. We did some testing and she diagnosed me with Adrenal Fatigue---some natural medication, lifestyle changes and acupuncture brought me back to health after several months.

I continued to visit her every month to discuss ongoing issues and receive her renewing acupuncture treatments. She had told me that sometimes your health issues are like peeling an onion, and once one problem is dealt with, there might be other issues that will present themselves. Well, she was right...and after conquering my adrenal fatigue, my problem became NOT sleeping for several hours in the middle of the night. I was going through menopause at the time and not getting my sleep was becoming quite the issue in my daily life.

This issue took a while of trying different methods of testing, avoiding certain foods and taking certain natural Chinese medications. Dr Becker finally decided that my sleepless nights might have something to do with Menopause and unbalanced hormones. She could not prescribe the hormones for me, so I visited Dr Ann Stanger (OB/Gyn) in Fitchburg and was tested for hormone levels and was told that my estrogen was so very low that at about 56 years of age, my body was only producing hormones at a 70 year olds level. Dr Stanger prescribed my bio-identical hormones for me and I continue to be her patient as well to be tested on hormone levels and also tested for liver toxicity from the hormones.

I am presently 66 years old and my relationship with my Naturopathic Doctor has grown into a lifetime commitment to my health and she is my rockstar in the medical field. If this statement of my experiences can compel you to license those individuals that not only get the education and training that regular physicians are required to do, but are advocates for the health and well-being of all individuals, then this testimony will have the desired effect. My Naturopathic Doctor could not prescribe the hormones that my body so desperately needed, but licensure would allow her to help other menopausal women with the same problem as me. I am constantly asked by both friends and family, "How do you stay so healthy and vital?" and my answer is always my Naturopathic Doctor.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

CATHY TINSLEY
S632 CHEYENNE CT
LAVALLE, WI 53941

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

Hi, my name is Elizabeth and I'm a fourth year student of naturopathic medicine at National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, OR. I grew up in Brookfield, Wisconsin, attended university in Madison and Milwaukee, and dream of returning there to practice medicine. Under the current laws in place, most of my ability to practice would be stripped from me, making it difficult to achieve this dream. For that reason, most NDs remain in Oregon or other licensed states. As a result, we see a saturation of naturopathic care in some states and a scarcity in others. I believe Wisconsinites deserve equal access to care. I have been seen by a ND for my primary care while living both in Portland and Hawaii. They have been thorough, took the time to hear me, and treated me on a whole person level. Because of my naturopathic care team, I am healthy & strong today. Because of my education, I can pass this gift on to countless others.

People are demanding an alternative to the current medical system; medical doctors cannot listen adequately to their patients due to time constraints, do not adequately address lifestyle, diet, or nutrition due to their medical training, and often deal with symptom management as opposed to treating the whole person. Although I have received some wonderful medical care in Wisconsin, I believe if NDs were allowed to practice in this state, they could augment the scope of medicine and empower the people of Wisconsin to lead healthier and happier lives. Please allow me to come home to practice medicine in the place of my birth. Trust me, my future patients will thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Holloway
17835 Windermere Rd
Brookfield, WI 53045-2647

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My husband, Dale, had exhausted all of the services through the Madison VA Hospital when we sought care with Dr. Allison Becker. She proved six years of excellent naturopathic remedies to assist in improving his quality of life. She continues to provide me with superb collaborative care with my MercyHealth primary care provider.

Sincerely,

Gayle Corcoran Stettler
327 W Ann Street
Whitewater, WI 53190-1918

Testimonial in support of Senate Bill 532: Licensure of NDs

September 29, 2021

Madame Chair, Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry, Please support Senate Bill 532 to license Naturopathic Doctors (ND's) in the State of Wisconsin.

As a patient and pro-active health advocate, I believe that highly-trained naturopathic doctors would offer a strong option for those seeking Primary Care.

Here's my story in support of your vote.

My journey toward better health began 17 years ago. An appointment with a naturopathic doctor was life-changing, if not life-saving. My passion for being pro-active about one's health has grown exponentially since my exposure to the naturopathic paradigm.

With the advice and guidance from a highly-trained naturopathic doctor, I was empowered to save my gallbladder from a surgeon's knife. The surgeon forewarned, "You will be back when the pain worsens." I never went back. Instead, I became pain-free by following my ND's supplemental and dietary recommendations to detoxify my system from dairy/beef allergies. Now, 17 years later, I remain pain-free with an intact and fully-functioning gallbladder. The cost-savings in time and dollars is an added bonus.

From this and other ND experiences over the years, I am convinced that a highly-trained naturopathic doctor could benefit many as an excellent primary care doctor. Preventing (and even reversing) health issues appeals to my pro-active stance while avoiding expensive sick-care costs. Others might agree.

Thank you for considering a "yes" vote on Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Lois Krizan
132 S. Harmony Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My name is Lonna Connell and I live in Elkhorn Wisconsin. I sought a ND because despite my Primary Physician treating my thyroid issue I continued to have negative symptoms. I sought out an ND that specialized in thyroid and had the advanced experience and education to help me. After the very first visit and advanced lab testing the ND adjusted my medications and assisted me in diet changes that all helped to resolve my symptoms and create a healthier environment for my medical issues.

NDs are way ahead of Western medicine in diet education and ways of treating issues with their well rounded superior education to many Western MD criteria. My ND has saved my life and my Cardiologist praises the forethought and advanced knowledge of the ND preventative ways. I believe from their qualified high level of training and caring that the ND must be allowed as a Primary Care Provider in Wisconsin who specialize in natural medicine.

Sincerely,

Lonna Connell
W4945 County Rd Es. Lot 6
Elkhorn, WI 53121-3993

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

Thank you for taking the time to read my story and consider how important and valuable the care I received was to me. It put me on the path to living my best life.

Dr. Rebecca Georgia is a licensed Naturopathic Doctor. She graduated summa cum laude from the College of Naturopathic Medicine at the University of Bridgeport and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology from UW- Green Bay. Her additional certifications include training in Craniosacral Therapy and FirstLine Therapy.

These are her credentials. But this is only a small portion of what makes her an effective doctor. Her own personal experiences in conventional medicine left her hopeless to living life fully. Which mirrors my experience. I doctors around the country and shared my symptoms and was continually brushed aside or offered a lovely array of pharmaceuticals (which upon researching on my own the side effects) I decided suffering in silence while doing my own research would be better for me. It helped some, I made progress, but with progress comes more questions that I just couldn't solve. I needed professional help if I wanted to continue to work in my career as a chef and be a full time mom.

I made an appointment with Dr. Georgia at the very beginning of 2020 and after listening intently for well over an hour, yes an entire hour and a half of undivided medical attention, she had a good idea of what my condition was and suggested we test for it and carefully explained what treating it could potentially look like. Dr. Georgia was spot on with her diagnosis and worked carefully with me virtually to set up my treatment plan. It was hard for me, but the path worked!!! I regained a sense of health I hadn't felt, really ever before. And more importantly, my mind shifted on how to live better. The struggle of living with a debilitating condition makes mental change incredible difficult. Removing the physical barrier, aiming directly at the CAUSE and not just the symptoms changed my life! This type of mentality and action plan is unlike any I have experienced in conventional medicine. THIS is why Naturopaths deserve a solid seat at the table to treat people and their conditions with dignity and respect and proven results that work for the individual, not for the profits of large scale pharmaceutical corporations.

I am grateful I, along with many others have found help in the Naturopathic Medicine world. It would be a great joy to hear of others being able to receive the same care. I would certainly be the first to sign my healthy daughter up for Dr. Georgia to serve as both of our primary care doctor if naturopaths were granted a deserved place in our comprehensive medical system.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mau
530 Clemons Ave
Madison, WI 53704-5506

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I sought the assistance of a Naturopathic Doctor to help me make better food choices and improve my nutritional health. I tried to talk about nutritional health with my family practice physician and she suggested that I might have an eating disorder because I want to plan ahead for healthy meals rather than grabbing what might be available when I am hungry. My Naturopathic Doctor is not a replacement for my family practice physician or breast health team at Ascension (I've had early stage breast cancer) but a supplement to these professionals. She is very careful with boundaries and I appreciate having her as a resource. I think Naturopathic Doctors deserve licensure in Wisconsin and can provide a very valuable service to Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,

Deanne Olson
W318 N1075 Huckleberry Way N
Delafield, WI 53018-2634

Testimonial in support of Senate Bill 532: Licensure of NDs

September 29, 2021

Madame Chair, Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry,
I am Don Krizan.

Serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1970-71, I achieved a welcomed low point in body weight, 168 pounds (on a 6-1, medium-build frame). During more than two decades beyond that experience, my weight had climbed to almost 250 pounds and I finally realized how I was seriously endangering my health. Through diet and portion changes, I had, by early March of 2012, reduced my weight to 178 pounds and, naturally, was feeling very satisfied and quite well.

However, on March 20, 2012, I recorded in my exercise log, "Not feeling well." Over the next few months, I experienced numerous accumulating symptoms, including head congestion, joint stiffness, general fatigue, edema, sensitivity to cold, an aversion to foods containing oils, and a general loss of appetite.

In early June, 2012, I met with an MD-Gastroenterologist who arranged testing that revealed I was dealing with liver cirrhosis (non-alcoholic). The MD did not know what caused this condition and prescribed diuretics to reduce fluid build-up in my body.

Days later I met with an ND who recommended diet changes and supplements to ease my symptoms along with blood tests to reveal what toxins may have contributed to my condition. At my next appointment in June, the ND reviewed the blood test results and also reviewed my past history, including my tour in Vietnam. She revealed that toxins identified in my blood test were consistent with the ingredients in Agent Orange. My assignment in Vietnam occurred in Corps Tactical Zone III, one of the areas where the heaviest application of Agent Orange occurred. The ND opined that my significant weight loss had released the toxins that had been stored in my body fat and recommended additional oral and IV supplementation to begin removal of the Agent Orange toxins.

By July, 2012, my weight bottomed out at 157 pounds but other symptoms began to subside. I began to regain my appetite and some weight. By March, 2013, I had nearly returned to my pre-illness weight of 178 and was feeling very well. During a follow-up visit, the MD-Gastroenterologist who diagnosed the cirrhosis encouraged me to continue the regimen recommended by my ND and stated that I should "... live a normal, healthy life and die of some cause other than liver disease."

Based on my positive, health-restoring experience with an ND, I'm confident that any highly-trained naturopathic doctor could serve as an excellent primary care doctor.

I encourage you to support Senate Bill 532.

Sincerely,

Don Krizan

132 S. Harmony Drive

Janesville, WI 53545

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My daughter struggled with constant digestive issues for two years. Her symptoms were so severe that we not only made countless visits to her pediatrician, but we unfortunately had to make several trips to the emergency room as well. For two years, the only answer that any physician could provide me with was that my daughter was constipated. I watched my daughter's health continue to deteriorate while physicians told me that this was common for young children and that a daily dose of MiraLAX would fix everything.

I needed answers and I needed to be an advocate for my daughter's health. I decided to look into the possibility of finding a Naturopathic Doctor in my area that worked with children. A simple Google search gave me plenty of names. I had the daunting task of going through this list of Naturopathic Doctors, trying to filter through their experience, education, and qualifications. I found Dr. Aponte through Lakeside Natural Medicine and made an appointment. I went into the appointment open-minded but hesitant. During our first visit, Dr. Aponte was very straightforward about her practice. She informed me of her experience, education, and why she is qualified to practice natural medicine. She answered every question I had and made me feel very comfortable. Dr. Aponte listened as I went over the lengthy list of symptoms my daughter experienced over the last two years. Within no time, Dr. Aponte believed that my daughter could possibly have Celiac Disease and quickly ordered lab work to confirm. Dr. Aponte was correct, my daughter does in fact have Celiac Disease. She received her official diagnoses in March of 2021. We have worked with Dr. Aponte since my daughter's diagnoses and because of her, every single one of my daughter's symptoms has disappeared. She is an entirely different child now. She is healthy and happy and thriving, all thanks to Dr. Aponte's naturopathic practice.

I often wonder how things would be now if I had not taken the initiative to find a naturopathic approach to my daughters' misery. I wonder how things would be if I let my hesitation regarding qualifications and legitimacy of Naturopathic Doctors keep me from scheduling an appointment with Dr. Aponte. I wonder how many parents are facing a similar struggle and have no idea that naturopathic medicine is an option or are afraid to try it because the doctors are not licensed. I am fortunate that I had access to resources that allowed me to filter through the qualifications of those practicing natural medicine, but many people do not have that luxury. Allowing Naturopathic Doctors to be licensed would give everyone the confidence they deserve when taking a natural

approach to medicine. It would give everyone access to options when it comes to their health and livelihood.

My daughter's pediatrician, and the many physicians we saw during the worst of her symptoms, could have diagnosed her Celiac Disease as easily as Dr. Aponte did. They should have diagnosed her Celiac Disease, but they did not. They wanted to treat the symptoms; Dr. Aponte wanted to find the root cause of her symptoms and she did. If we want to improve the quality of health care delivery, then licensing Naturopathic Doctors is an incredibly critical step.

Sincerely,

Joelle Kingston
5389 MEADOW DR
Greendale, WI 53129-1419

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I went to a Naturopathic Doctor for advice about my health. She was wonderful. She took a thorough history, listening intently, and offered suggestions based on my medical history. I followed her advice and received relief from my most pressing issues. Many of these issues I had experienced most of my life. Anything I practiced was shared with my primary care physician that agreed with what I was doing. In fact, I believe that my primary physician took note of my comments for future use.

I have recommended my Naturopathic Doctor to others as a medical professional especially when they have ongoing medical issues that have not responded to traditional Drs. or medications.

I believe that there are health options and collaboration that is important among medical professionals. Naturopathic medicine is a valuable medical field and should be treated as such.

Sincerely,

Mary Kelly
2307 Sunny Lane, Apt A,
Suamico, WI 54313-7864

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I would love to see Naturopathic Doctors licensed as I have benefited tremendously from their care. Since I started on a more natural path to healing, I have seen dramatic changes to my health as compared to traditional means of medical care. I would love to have Dr. Henkel as my family's PCP and be able to provide additional care. I am indebted to the safe handling and passionate healthful advice and guidance I have been given.

Sincerely,

Kristen Karcz
711 Hamilton Dr
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-2247

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My recent story is this: I am plagued with infections... constantly... urinary tract infections plus others that have left me hospitalized 3 times! I am allergic to 3 different types of antibiotics as of now... this isn't normal. What I've been suffering from is my body's natural bacteria being completely destroyed and now I'm having health problems, such as a destroyed immune system. I had a Naturopathic Doctor with my last infection that lead me to natural ways to heal it and also heal my gut, my ph balance, my body... so that I can actually receive real healing.

I no longer will be plagued with infections EVERY YEAR. I can finally be free and healed. I want to know the endless ways a Naturopathic Doctor can help me and then I want to get my own license so I can really help others.

Sincerely,

Stacy Jarman
605 Lincoln Avenue
Rio, WI 53960-9504

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My Naturopathic Doctor was the only one that helped me with stomach/digestive issues and with my Chronic Lyme Disease just to name a few.

Sincerely,

Jody Wolf
439 Jones Street
Cambridge, WI 53523

Sept 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I have had nothing but good experiences with my Naturopathic Doctor, Dr. Allison Becker in Evansville WI. I was in constant pain for months with my back. I went to the doctor countless times and every time I went they said it was something else and nothing did or tried worked. Finally Dr Becker really listened to me when I described what pain I was having.

She got to the root of the problem and also performed acupuncture! After months of suffering and barley being able to walk for more than a few minutes I was better after leaving her office!

Sincerely,

Alisa Woerner
4297 n dandylion ln
Evansville, WI 53536-9009

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I have reached out to Dr. Allison Becker looking for help with r.a. and a chronic condition. Dr Allison Becker has helped me immensely in a very short time without the use of very strong medications that have harmful side effects. I truly believe N.D.s should be licensed.

Kathleen Wygans

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wygans
10246 N Ellendale Rd
Edgerton, WI 53534-9059

September 29, 2021

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

My name is Elaine Plank and I live in Janesville, WI. I am writing to encourage you to support the licensure of naturopathic doctors in our state. I have suffered with chronic abdominal pain which was not able to be treated with standard medicine protocol. When all prescribed tests would come back negative there was nothing wrong with me, so I went unable to be treated. Through a careful search I found a naturopathic doctor with a degree from an established institution. The experience was life changing. My doctor worked to find and treat the root cause which healed my abdominal pain as well as a few other secondary issues. My doctor took the time and followed the naturopathic model of getting to know the entire person, and in my case, not just my abdomen, with the belief that everything is connected. I wasn't just a series of unrelated body parts. I now use my ND as my primary doctor who has schooled me in how to take care of myself, to know how to ask detailed questions and have other doctors show, review, and explain tests results. My ND collaborates with other medical professionals to provide services to me that I could receive from my ND, are within the realm of the ND medical degree, but cannot just be offered to me because of lack of state licensure.

ND's are trained to perform as a primary care doctor, able to write prescriptions, order labs, order imaging, or other medical assists to be able to determine the root cause of the medical issue. Wisconsinites should not have to do the work of tracking down a properly trained ND holding a ND degree from an established institution as I did. Wisconsin needs to be a state that licenses properly trained NDs. You are well aware that currently any one can operate as a naturopathic doctor in our state irregardless of the level of training. Having to sift through this discrepancy, I urge you to support this important licensure for the naturopathic doctors and for the people of Wisconsin. It is an essential arm of our medical care in this state.

I will thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Elaine Plank
4021 Bordeaux Drive Janesville, WI
Janesville, WI 53546-1783

September 29, 2021

re: in support of Senate bill 532

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensure and Forestry:

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases public safety, increases access to qualified providers, and gives the public greater choice in their health care. Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors:

I have utilized a Naturopathic Doctor as part of my primary care team for over 10 years. I am impressed with the depth of knowledge she brings to the table for me. I utilize standard Western MD care AND Naturopathic care as my regular annual preventative care and for acute illnesses. I am impressed how well they compliment each other but neither can stand alone.

I would like you to support this bill to give these very knowledgeable professionals the credit they deserve as well as the protection for their skills.

Sincerely,

Angela Vasser
76175 Paulson Rd
Washburn, WI 54891-4915

September 29, 2021

Senator Felzkowski and Committee Members- ND SB Bill 532

I'm here today on behalf of my Naturopath, Dr. Angela Rahm. I'm not exaggerating in the least when I credit Dr. Rahm with saving my life. To the outside world I've always projected the image of someone who is healthy and strong. But looking back now with the knowledge I've gained through my experience with Naturopathic medicine, I see clearly that I've had underlying health issues my entire life. I believe it's only because of my interest in nutrition and awareness of my body that I've been able to compensate fairly successfully throughout my life with health issues that traditional medicine simply overlooked. The parameters of the general healthcare guidelines are much too broad to detect disease in its early stages. Their focus has always been on treating people who are already so sick that they're easy to diagnose. All they really want to do is categorize you by your symptoms and prescribe the corresponding pill to your diagnosis. Because I've always fallen within these wide parameters, I've thrown away thousands of dollars on ER visits, medical testing, and fertility drugs, which only resulted in the general consensus by each doctor that I was exhausted, constipated, depressed or mysteriously infertile.

It wasn't until Dr. Rahm took the time to know me as a person that I began to unravel a lifetime of symptoms that had culminated in the slow progression of debilitating illness. With Dr. Rahm's help I've discovered there were clear and verifiable reasons for everything I'd been struggling with. Her more stringent testing revealed the missing pieces to my personal biological puzzle. With her help I've learned where I'm at with all of my blood markers, phase angle score, cell health, metabolic age, BMR, and my personal DNA, which revealed I have the MTHFR gene mutation that was the answer to my "mysterious" infertility problems. The power of knowing what I know now with Dr. Rahm's help is transforming my health dramatically. I didn't need drugs or anti-depressants. I needed nutritional support.

I believe there is a great disruption happening in the world as a whole, and the complete deconstruction of our current healthcare system is in our future. But it saddens me to learn that in a profession I've come to value as a pure, honest, holistic wellness community there is conflict amongst its own people. Discriminating against your fellow peers on the basis of what school they attended is appalling. I know from personal experience that where you end up going to school is largely based on your field of influence at the time of enrollment. And the name on the walls doesn't necessarily determine your value to your profession. If someone is called to be a naturopath it's because they have the heart of a true healer. I've known Dr. Rahm for many years and she is brilliant. She has continued to study and gain further knowledge in her field and retains everything she's ever learned. She is a truly a wealth of knowledge and never falters. Aside from her brilliant mind, Dr. Rahm possesses what many in her field are clearly lacking; Compassion. She deserves to continue working in her field with the title she's earned. She generously gives of her time and isn't motivated by money. Stripping her of her title would be unethical in my opinion and quite honestly gives a bad name to those attempting to do so. I believe the motivation behind this bill is monetary. Which is exactly what's wrong with our traditional healthcare system. This is a small group of healthcare professionals attempting to work outside their scope of practice and create a community that excludes anyone outside its club. It's an attempt to corrupt the field that so many like myself have come to honor as the lifeline our Doctors provide us. Instead of fighting their own kind, why not band together and transform what's truly wrong with our healthcare system today. The complete ignorance of bio-individuality and the commitment and dedication required to know someone as an entire person. This is what Dr. Rahm brings to her clients and to her profession with a passion that's rarely seen. She is and will always be a Naturopathic Doctor. It's who she is. The world needs more Doctors like Dr. Rham. Not less.

Sincerely,

Emmie G. Moss

September 29, 2021

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry:

Thank you Senators Bernier, Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of Senate Bill 532.

My name is Margot Harris. I am a women's health nurse practitioner who has worked in Janesville, WI for over 20 years, and more importantly, a mother of four children. I was first introduced to naturopathic medicine when a certified nurse midwife referred me to a naturopath after my first childbirth 17 years ago. I learned a lot about nutrition and food sensitivities and healing the body holistically from the three naturopathic physicians in practice in my community at that time. My children have received health care services from naturopathic physicians. I credit these naturopaths for building my confidence as a young mother to trust in the wisdom of the body to heal itself and support my and my children's health through nutrition, herbal supplements and natural living.

Professionally, I have collaborated with five different naturopathic physicians during my career. I have found these health care providers to be well-trained, thoughtful and thorough in their client care, making appropriate referrals when necessary for a patient who needed prescription medication or laboratory or radiology evaluation. Licensing Wisconsin's naturopathic physicians allows them to practice to the fullest scope of their training with prescriptive rights, the ability to order labs and diagnostic imaging, and the ability to diagnose and treat disease. This saves the client time and money because they do not have to repeat their symptom history to an allopathic provider, in order to have lab services and obtain a prescription. It prevents duplication of services and over-usage of the current industrial health care model.

As a busy health care provider, I found it very helpful to refer patients to a trusted naturopath who could evaluate and educate our patients on disease states where nutrition and environmental factors are very influential, such as small intestinal bacterial overgrowth, irritable bowel symptoms, eczema and autoimmune illness, thyroid disease, Lyme's disease and mold toxicity. Health care providers trained in a typical Western medicine system do not have many hours of education in nutrition beyond vitamin deficiencies. Neither do they have the time during a typical 15 minute visit to obtain a comprehensive nutritional history and educate on individualized diet and nutrition plans.

In 2012 and 2013, I worked in the office of two of our Madison naturopathic physicians. My role as an advanced practice nurse prescriber allowed our clients access to prescription medications for their individualized needs such as thyroid medications, antibiotics, and contraceptives. I had the opportunity to review medical records, participate in joint visits with the naturopaths, and observe their laboratory work flow and herbal supplement selection.

In my experience, as a naturopathic client myself and mother of four children, and a nurse practitioner with a working collaborative relationship, there is room in health care for licensed naturopathic doctors. Our clients benefit from having valuable and respected naturopaths as part of their health care team. Naturopathic doctors provide medically safe and distinct, cost-effective care. Licensing naturopathic physicians is beneficial to Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,

Margot Harris, RN, NP, IBCLC

4102 Foxwood Court

Janesville, WI 53546

608-359-9541

September 29, 2021

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry:

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate.

Thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill.

My name is Dr. Jill Crista and I live in Janesville. I'm a Naturopathic Doctor, best-selling author, and internationally recognized speaker.

I was the owner and practicing member of 2 integrative clinics here in Wisconsin, employing numerous Naturopathic Doctors and housing the medical practices of Medical Doctors, Chiropractors, Acupuncturists, Physical Therapists and Massage Therapists under one roof.

While in operation, we worked side-by-side in a collaborative, synergistic setting. Patients of these clinics reported improved health in measurable ways, such as fewer sick days, increased mobility and productivity, reduced side-effects from treatment, and avoidance of unnecessary medical procedures. I'm very proud of those results.

I have since shifted my focus to writing and teaching.

Due to the level of my medical training and experience, I have become a sought-after educator for medical conferences, offering continuing medical education presentations to medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, naturopathic doctors, and any other primary care trained practitioner needing CME meeting AMA PRA Category 1 accreditation, as deemed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education - the national accrediting body.

Please allow me to reiterate. My level of training and expertise as a licensed Naturopathic Doctor has positioned me to become an educator of other primary care providers.

Except, I'm not allowed to be licensed here. It's not available to me.

I'm training primary care practitioners who practice in Wisconsin, who have the ability to diagnose and treat in Wisconsin, and yet, I'm not allowed to diagnose or treat in Wisconsin. I'm training primary care practitioners who practice in Wisconsin, who have the ability to order lab testing in Wisconsin, and yet, I'm not allowed to order a lab test in Wisconsin. I'm training primary care practitioners who practice in Wisconsin how to safely administer pharmaceutical medication, yet I'm not allowed to prescribe in Wisconsin.

Put simply, I'm training doctors to do things that I can't do here. I can in Oregon, the state where I'm licensed. But I can't in my own home state.

I urge you to support me to do my best work *here in Wisconsin* by supporting this bill to license medically trained Naturopathic Doctors.

With sincere thanks,

Dr. Jill Crista

Dr. Jill Crista
Naturopathic Doctor
Janesville, WI



Jennifer M. Havens, ND
Program Director, Integrative Medicine
MACC Fund Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders
Children's Wisconsin
8915 W. Connell Ct.
Milwaukee, WI 53226

September 29, 2021

To: Senator Mary Felzkowski, Chair and Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry and members of the Committee

From: Dr. Jennifer M. Havens, Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association

Good afternoon, Madame Chair, members of the Senate Committee, I am Dr. Jennifer Havens. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of SB 532 of which you are a co-sponsor along with Senator Taylor and Senator Ringhand on this committee. We also want to thank our lead senate Author Senator Bernier who has worked very hard to get the bill before you today.

My name is Dr. Jennifer Havens, I am a Naturopathic Doctor currently licensed in the state of AZ. I provide integrative oncology support to both children and adults with a diagnosis of cancer.

I graduated from Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (SCNM), one of the 5 naturopathic medical schools in the US accredited by the Department of Education. After completing the 4-year naturopathic medical training, I also completed an internship in Integrative Pediatrics at Yale University in the Department of Pediatrics as well as an internship in general Integrative Medicine at George Washington University in the Center for Integrative Medicine. I then completed a residency in Naturopathic Oncology at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, followed by an NIH NRSA Fellowship in clinical research at the University of Washington in Seattle. Currently, I am the director of Integrative Medicine in the MACC Fund Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's Wisconsin. I am also a clinical faculty member of the SCNM Medical Center at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine and a member of the Legislative Team of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association. I would like to touch on Access and Safety from a pediatric oncology point of view here in Wisconsin.

The National Institutes of Health has been studying the use of natural and integrative medicine since the '70's and not surprisingly, they started studying its use in pediatric populations. One of their plenary findings was that parents and caregivers rarely use integrative medicine in lieu of conventional medicine. What they also found is that over 12% of parents use integrative medicine for their children's general health and wellness. However, data also consistently demonstrates that once a child develops a chronic illness or a diagnosis of cancer, that use jumps to over 50% and 70% respectively.

When a child gets a diagnosis of cancer, it's terrifying. Parents and caregivers of children with cancer are scared and desperate and will grasp at any straw that might help their child. Integrative modalities are often chosen because they provide an opportunity to maintain some degree of control over their child's care, but also because they offer hope, even if it is only for treatment-related symptom management.

The scope and umbrella of naturopathic medical training is broad in terms of integrative modalities, including training in nutrition, botanical medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, physical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, and natural products. We are also trained in conventional medicine, which affords us the unique skills to combine natural and conventional medicine safely. There is no other profession trained in the way or to the degree of a naturopathic doctor.

A little over 3 years ago, I was hired by the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Hospital to create an Integrative Medicine program for the Division of Pediatric Oncology to address this gap in care. The primary driving force to build this program was the number of our children being harmed by unlicensed lay persons. During my first year, I conducted a survey looking at complementary and integrative medicine use in our patient population and found that over 80% of our families were either looking for integrative interventions or already using them, which is higher than the national average. Sadly, in that first year, I also learned that many of our children had been harmed by people advertising and presenting themselves as naturopathic doctors. Furthermore, due to the inappropriate guidance of those individuals, those children did not survive.

25 jurisdictions in the US have laws regulating naturopathic doctors. This not only provides access but creates a safe environment for the practice of naturopathic medicine. In the absence of access and appropriate choices for naturopathic oncology support, parents and caregivers will continue to be forced to make unsafe choices. Licensing of naturopathic doctors will create access for Wisconsinites to choose trained doctors that can provide safe and appropriate guidance for their children.

I urge you to pass SB 532 out of your committee.
Thank you for your consideration.



September 29, 2021

Senator Felzkowski and members of the Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

My name is Dr. Kerry Niebrzydowski. I am a naturopathic doctor, licensed acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist. I have completed a 6 year dual degree program receiving a doctorate in naturopathic medicine and masters in oriental medicine at the National University of Natural Medicine in 2008. After receiving my doctorate, I completed a residency at the National University of Natural Medicine in primary care with a focus on public health. Prior to this program I received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Michigan State University (2001). In addition, I have published 2 theses, received the *Making a Difference Benedict Lust* award (2009) and taught anatomy in a cadaver lab for 4 years. Furthermore, I am a craniosacral therapist. I completed the year-long *Shun Han Lun series of Canonical Chinese Medicine training*, an additional 2 year course in homeopathic medicine from the New England School of homeopathy and training in Shonishin pediatric acupuncture as well as Si Yuan Balance Method.

I am the vice president of the Wisconsin Association of Naturopathic Doctors and a member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians. I also teach Hatha Yoga at Bianco's fitness center in Iron Mountain, MI. I complete 65 hours of continuing education annually in areas of homeopathy, Chinese and western herbal medicine, pharmacy and acupuncture. I hold a naturopathic physician (license #1632) in the state of Oregon and a license as an acupuncturist in Wisconsin (No. 652-55).

Since 2010, I have been in private practice in rural Niagara Wisconsin on the border of upper Michigan. I care for people of all ages and complaints. I treat people complaining of digestive issues, acute and chronic infections, cardiovascular issues, pain, hormonal imbalance and infertility, asthma, allergies, autoimmune disease and neurologic disease. I have a general medicine practice and refer extensively to specialists in the local medical community. I work collaboratively with all doctors in my area.

Currently, I see about 100 patients per week. Due to demand for services, new patients wait 4-6 weeks to be scheduled. Patients travel up to 90 miles to receive care, sometimes further. My practice offers tele-health visits nationwide and sometimes internationally.

Naturopathic medical licensure would allow me to provide effective care for all of these patients and their diverse needs. As I work in a rural area, we are in a primary care shortage. Often when I refer patients back to primary care for a simple prescription they have to wait and it is redundant care. If I were licensed I would be able to simply care for them appropriately without needing another provider. The necessity of pharmaceutical prescribing routinely presents itself in my private practice. Some examples are: I have had 3 cases of scabies in the last ten years. It is a highly infectious mite that requires permethrin cream to resolve. Because I do not have pharmaceutical prescription privileges, I have had to send these patients to urgent care and expose another clinical setting to this infectious mite. Additionally, this is a waste of time and money as they have to see another doctor in another facility. Another example is last week I had a patient with a urinary tract infection that required antibiotics. I had already assessed and evaluated the patient yet I needed to send her to urgent care to get a prescription. These are but a few examples of the redundancy that happens because I am not licensed. This scenario of patients needing to see multiple providers for the same complaint happens multiple times a month in my practice. By licensing naturopathic doctors we narrow the primary care gap by creating greater access to care and make Wisconsin's health care model more effective by minimizing the need for a patient to see multiple providers.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Dr. Kerry Niebrzydowski
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September 29, 2021

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Madame Chairwoman Felzkowski and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

My name is Gina Besteman from Deerfield WI and I am a pharmacist and General Manager at Women's International Pharmacy in Madison WI and Youngtown AZ where I have been employed for 27 years. I have personally tested for and maintain pharmacist licensure in 18 states in addition to WI. At Women's International Pharmacy we maintain pharmacy licensure in all U.S. states and our primary focus is compounding prescription medication options for women and men requiring hormone replacement therapy in the state of WI as well as all other states.

I am here today in support of WI State Senate Bill 532 which provides for regulation and licensing for the practice of Naturopathic Medicine.

Twenty-five U.S. states or territories as well as most of the Canadian provinces currently license or register Naturopathic Doctors. WI has never recognized Naturopathic Doctors through licensing, registration or prescriptive authority. I am unsure as to the reasons why. Naturopathic Doctors require medical training, experience, and competency testing for licensure just as all other medical practitioners do.

On a professional level, while working at our pharmacy in AZ where Naturopathic Doctors are licensed, I have consistently found Naturopaths to be thorough and conscientious when working with patients, keeping their patients' best health interests in mind. I have been impressed by their knowledge of hormone replacement therapy and their prescribing practices. Based on statistics such as refill rates and patient's longevity with the Naturopathic Doctors, patients must also be pleased with care provided by Naturopathic Doctors.

On a personal level, I have seen a Naturopathic Doctor and have trusted my son's care to a Naturopathic Doctor as well. My son has a chronic health condition diagnosed at a very young age. After developing a relationship with a Naturopathic Doctor, we were able to collaborate and use my knowledge of pharmaceutical drugs and natural substances and the Naturopathic Doctor's knowledge of medical conditions and treatments to successfully offer relief to my son after years of unsuccessful treatments through traditional channels. I work with all types of medical practitioners and have chosen to work with Naturopathic Doctors to address the root cause of medical issues and not merely to treat the symptoms.

It is unthinkable that WI is one of the few states to not even recognize the value of Naturopathic Doctors. Even if one is unfamiliar with the principles of naturopathic medicine, one must recognize the value they bring to the practice of medicine. The six principles of Naturopathic Medicine, ones which I have found in practice and on a personal level to be overwhelmingly true are:

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- First Do No Harm
- The Healing Power of Nature
- Identify and Treat the Causes
- Doctor as Teacher
- Treat the Whole Person
- Prevention

Despite these aforementioned important and logical principles, the most important reason to license Naturopaths is to allow the citizens of WI, along with the majority of the rest of the U.S. population to have options, freedom to choose, and **access** to practitioners of their choice.

I would like to thank Senators Bernier, Felzkowski, Taylor, and Ringhand for co-sponsoring this very important WI State Senate Bill 532 which provides for licensure of Naturopathic Doctors in the state of WI.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Besteman, R.Ph.
Vice President and General Manager
Women's International Pharmacy, Inc.
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gina@womensinternational.com
608-221-7800

Home address:
4257 Smith Drive
Deerfield WI 53531

September 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

To whom it may concern,

My name is Timothy Flores and I'm a realtor in the Madison area. For most of my life I have struggled with digestive issues and sleep with uneven energy. Naturopathic medicine presented a food plan to improve my cognition, energy level, mood sleep and losing over 35 lb in a handful of months with very little exercise because all the gyms are shut down during covid lockdowns. I had no idea that this level of weight loss and health improvement was even possible in such a short time. This has allowed me to better serve my community and the clients that I serve in the real estate market. I have referred friends, family members and real estate clients to my local naturopathic doctor and many of them have seen dramatic improvements in their day-to-day lives in personal health.

I never would have guessed that my work as a realtor could help people improve their lives beyond just a new home. This never would have occurred to me; it's how I was introduced to naturopathic medicine.

I URGE YOU TO PASS SB 532 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Tim Flores
625 N Segoe Rd Unit 610,
Madison, WI 53705, USA



Katarina Meister, ND
3510 N. Oakland Ave - #203
Shorewood, WI 53211
Cell Ph: 630-272-1047
drmeister@lakesidenaturalmedicine.com

Sept 29, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Madame Chair, Members of the Senate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my experience with you as a recent graduate of Naturopathic Medical school. Senators Ringhand, Taylor and Felzkowski, thank you for co-sponsoring Senate Bill 532, a bill to license Naturopathic Doctors. My name is Katarina Meister, I am a new naturopathic doctor urging you to support Senate bill 532.

Background:

Ten years ago, my personal health came to the forefront, and I had exhausted all avenues of conventional medicine without resolve. This experience led me to locate a Naturopathic Doctor for an individualized, comprehensive, and evidence-based approach. After a thorough investigation and phenomenal results, I decided to pursue a career in naturopathic medicine. At the time I was pre-med at The University of Iowa, once I understood how naturopathic medical school education was very similar to that of conventional medical school, it was an easy switch for me.

Naturopathic Medical School Education

A Naturopathic doctor attends a four-year graduate level naturopathic medical school, that is accredited by the Council of Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). NDs receive a total of 4,600 hours of training on average compared to 4,400 hours of training MDs receive. During the first two years of naturopathic medical school, the curriculum is focused on the biomedical and clinical sciences. This includes gross human anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, human pathology, pharmacology, and more. The overall curriculum for the basic sciences comes at around 1600 hours. Compare this total to the 1400 basic sciences at traditional medical schools. In the final two years of naturopathic medical school, the curriculum is focused on diagnosis, treatment, and clinical experience outside the classroom. Naturopathic Doctors learn how to elicit a complete and accurate medical history, perform a health examination, formulate an accurate medical diagnosis, and provide a personalized and effective treatment.

NDs learn around 2,200 hours in clerkships and allopathic therapeutics such as pharmacology, radiology, minor surgery, dermatology, family medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, and more. Compare these 2,200 hours to traditional medical school which has around 2,800 hours on average for clerkships and allopathic therapeutics. Naturopathic medical school differs from traditional medical school curriculum by placing additional emphasis on nutrition, around 150 hours, and naturopathic therapeutics, around 600 hours. Naturopathic therapeutics includes botanical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, physical medicine manipulation therapy, and more.

NPLEX:

Every licensed naturopathic doctor in the United States is required to pass parts I and II of the Naturopathic Physician Licensing Exam (NPLEX) which is a standardized exam observed by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE) to practice naturopathic medicine. Similar to traditional medical school which uses a standardized test called the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) - in which every medical doctor is required to pass to obtain a license to practice medicine in the US.

NPLEX Part I is also called the Biomedical Science Examination (BSE), which is an integrated exam that consists of 200 items that cover the basic sciences including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, immunology, pathology and more. The examination reflects the first two years of naturopathic medical school curriculum and is administered in two sections (morning and afternoon) of 2½ hours each.

NPLEX Part II is also called the Core Clinical Science Examination (CCSE), which is an integrated, case-based examination reflecting the curriculum of the final two years of naturopathic medical school. This exam consists of approximately 80 case clusters (400 items) that cover the topics of diagnosis, naturopathic therapeutics, and allopathic interventions including emergency medicine, minor surgery, and pharmacology. This examination is administered in three sections over the course of 3 days (3½ hours each day).

Lay naturopath vs Licensed ND

The distinction between a lay naturopath and a licensed naturopathic doctor is distinct. As previously mentioned, Licensed NDs receive a formal four-year post-graduate education at an CNME accredited naturopathic medical school, recognized by the US Department of Education and pass parts I and II of the NPLEX standardized exam observed by NABNE.

Lay naturopaths can be trained any number of ways, from a correspondence course to a brick-and-mortar school. Their education in the basic sciences may only be as high as 100 hours compared to 1600 hours at naturopathic medical school. Lay naturopaths receive zero training in clerkships and allopathic therapeutics and are not medically trained to be medical providers. They receive less than half the hours that a licensed ND receives in naturopathic therapeutics. For a max amount of training at around 450 hours on average, this is less than one tenth of the training of a licensed ND. However, with all of this mentioned, there is no standard of educational requirements for lay naturopaths. Lay naturopaths do not qualify to sit for the NPLEX exams that are observed by NABNE. The executive director and board of NABNE agrees that regulations and licensing laws, will protect the public from unqualified practitioners by licensing naturopathic doctors in the state of Wisconsin.

New Graduate

I attended Bastyr University, which is an CNME accredited naturopathic school, that meets both federal and academic standards. Bastyr's four-year naturopathic medicine program is known to be rigorous and comprehensive, and from personal experience I can attest to this. My clinical experience at Bastyr University included providing naturopathic primary patient care as well as working alongside MDs at an integrative Urgent Care & Internal Medicine clinic. In both settings, I have seen first-hand how naturopathic medicine plays a major role in providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective primary care medicine alongside the conventional model.

I am delighted to say that after graduating with high remarks from Bastyr University California's Naturopathic Doctorate program, I passed my naturopathic licensing exams and have applied for my naturopathic medical license in the state of Vermont. As a new graduate, and naturopathic doctor I feel extremely fortunate to have found a job opportunity in the state of Wisconsin. I am eager to obtain naturopathic state licensure across the Midwest area, specifically in the state of Wisconsin. I look forward to being licensed in Wisconsin so I can provide care to the fullest of my training.

Many newly graduated NDs are not returning or moving to the Midwest due to lack of licensure. With your vote for SB 532 and with licensure in the state of Wisconsin, it provides a significant opportunity for Naturopathic Doctors to start their practice here. Wisconsin will emerge as a leader in addressing the growing demand for naturopathic medicine that will in turn optimize people's health and benefit Wisconsin economically and protect the public from unqualified practitioners.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katarina Meister N.D.

Katarina Meister, ND
Naturopathic Doctor

September 29, 2021

re: Support for SB 532

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate

Thank you, Senator Bernier, as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of this bill. My name is Dan Hartmann and I live in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

I am here before you 25 pounds lighter, with lipid and blood sugar values more optimal than they have been in the last 10 years and I have achieved restful sleep after years of insomnia and sleep dysfunction. These are just a few of the positive health outcomes I have secured for myself in the past 6 months.

I am currently employed as a mechanic and machinery operator on a 5000-acre crop farm in southern Wisconsin. I was the primary caretaker for my wife, a registered nurse, who suffered from a chronic illness for 7 years. My wife passed away in February of 2020.

After years of revolving door visits, to Madison area hospitals attempting to treat my wife's illness, there was never any mention of naturopathic medicine. Having access to this option would have been welcome and beneficial to both of us.

As you can imagine, during the course of those years, there were many challenges. One of these challenges was that my own health took a back seat. So, this spring only one year after losing my wife of 13 years, I was heading into another demanding planting season at work. I wanted to be able to thrive but I didn't know how. I knew I needed an expert, to create a roadmap, so I that I could regain my own health.

The advisement I received from my naturopathic doctor allowed me to implement a plan to make changes in my diet and sleep habits while reducing my medications. I am no longer exhausted during the day. These changes, mean that now I am a safer and healthier employee and I have reduced my personal health risks at the same time.

My story, is just one of thousands of patients in Wisconsin who have made the choice to secure a new level of health. That choice was made easy with the partnership of a naturopathic doctor. Licensing naturopathic doctors will assure a safe and regulated option for Wisconsinites to include these expert level providers in their care.

I urge you to pass SB 532 out of your committee. Thank you for your Time and Consideration.

Dan Hartmann
170 State Road 23
Mineral Point, WI 53565

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate,

Thank you for your time. I also wish to thank Senator Bernier as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill. My name is Denny Wright and I live in Beloit, Wisconsin.

Over the years, I have sought care, as needed, from Dr. Jill Crista, a Naturopathic Doctor in Janesville. I suffered a chronic stomach issue, which was generally diagnosed by my primary care physician as GERD, which can be both painful and unpleasant. Dr. Crista correctly diagnosed my GERD symptoms as poor gut flora, likely caused by an antibiotic treatment. The simple solution, now commonly prescribed by other medical doctors was a treatment of probiotics.

On the other hand, when I suffered an acute condition, like when I stepped on a nail and required a tetanus booster, my Naturopathic Doctor was unable to prescribe the appropriate treatment. At other times, she sent me to another clinic for bloodwork. The condition of tiers of service for medical treatment undermines quality health care and creates unneeded inefficiencies.

Naturopathic Doctors must undergo similar rigors of study and tenure as licensed medical doctors, and their contributions to quality healthcare are no less important. Just as neurologists and orthopedic surgeons each have their specialties that play unique and vital roles in our healthcare, so do the services and skills brought to the healthcare system by Naturopathic Doctors. Moreover, functioning as primary care physicians, many Naturopathic Doctors are in a unique position to assist their patients, not only in their primary care, but they can also refer their patients to specialists early in the process if their condition warrants it.

In addition to creating needed efficiencies in treatment plans, Naturopathic Doctors often establish close connections to their patients that allow them to track their medical conditions and histories on a personal level. Because Naturopathic Doctors can and do function as critical providers of healthcare, there is a public need to recognize and license Naturopathic Doctors to protect qualified Doctors and the public, which would allow licensed NDs to prescribe appropriate treatments and medications and make referrals on behalf of their patients.

This and too many other reasons to address in such a limited time, are why I urge you to support this bill to license Naturopathic Doctors as primary care providers.

Thank you again, for your time.

Denny Wright

9002 W. County Road H

Beloit, WI 53511

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate bill 532 to license NDs

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

I am writing to you in support of the Bill to license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin.

My name is Lauri Knapton. I live and own a business in Janesville, WI. I sought Naturopathic Medical Care from Dr. Allison Becker after visiting numerous doctors and not feeling any better. Before making an appointment with Dr. Becker, I had been diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and rheumatoid arthritis. I got to the point that I was so sick that I could only work at my business two hours at a time until I had to go home and sleep. I could not play and/or teach any of the musical instruments at my business because doing so was too painful. I could not lift items such as instrument cases, my laptop or even groceries. I had difficulty walking and had to sit in the handicapped section at my daughter's high school graduation. I ended up wearing braces on my arms and legs. My hair was falling out and I could not eat. I was constantly worried that I would not be around to take care of my family and my business. All of the worrying that I did about my family and business made me even sicker.

I must admit that I was skeptical about Naturopathic medicine at first, but I was taking so many prescription drugs and was contemplating starting a biologic of which after reading the possible side effects scared me immensely, so I thought I would try one more doctor. My first visit to Dr. Becker was on June 29, 2018 and she was the first doctor that looked at me and ALL of my medical history as a whole unlike each of my other health care providers including my primary doctor, gastroenterologist, rheumatologist, and physical therapists had done. I remember walking out of my appointment with Dr. Becker feeling hopeful. Dr. Becker recommended what foods I should eat, supplements to take, how to take time to relax, introduced me to Yoga and how to recognize the signs that my body was giving me to slow down instead of trying to just increase or add yet another prescription.

I was also concerned about the added cost of seeing another doctor. I can honestly say that the costs associated with my appointments have saved me money in the long run due to Dr. Becker's guidance in helping me with my overall health. When I first visited her in 2018, my blood work revealed that I was on the path to having additional issues besides the ones that I already mentioned, but due to her guidance with diet, health and looking at all of my lab tests collectively, she was able to diagnose impending issues that my other health practitioners had never even addressed.

Today, I can function as a normal person and I fully attribute this to Dr. Becker. The last lab test that I had showed no signs that I even had ulcerative colitis. I can do all of the things in life that I could not do back in 2018. I am so grateful for Dr. Becker and would not be where I am at today without her knowledge and guidance. I now also have a primary care doctor with whom I share information with between her and Dr. Becker which has helped me even more in my overall well-being! I share the tests back and forth between my doctors, but it would have been helpful if Dr. Becker could actually look into my medical history in the doctor portal and make notes for my other health providers to see.

I sincerely believe that I would not be where I am at today without Dr. Allison. I ask that you please license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin so that they can have full scope of their training.

I would like to personally thank Senator Bernier for sponsoring the Naturopathic Medicine Bill as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for co-sponsoring the bill and for giving me the opportunity to share my experience with naturopathic medicine.

If you have any questions about my experience with Dr. Becker, please feel to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lauri Knapton

630 Wexford Road

Janesville, WI 53546

(608)201-8660

lauri@kmkwi.com

Sept 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate.

Thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co sponsors of the bill.

My name is Kerstin Keber Smith and I live in Middleton and own a business in Madison, Wisconsin.

I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors as my family has greatly benefited from their care. In addition to this, as a practitioner my clients have also felt the enormous benefits through my referrals to naturopathic care. And as an adjunct professor, I can also state that many future health care workers have benefited from the wisdom and knowledge of Naturopathic Doctors and have expressed their appreciation for their unique perspective.

Through the holistic care of a Naturopathic Physician I have seen increased health in my entire family as well as personal growth. Since their training is to treat the entire person, it is hard to think of an area of my life that hasn't been improved by the excellent care I've received over the years. From sleep to energy to my overall sense of wellbeing I've seen improvements all around. My clients have also seen significant gains in health and wellness by adding a Naturopathic Doctor to their care team.

Every person deserves a network of collaborative care! The training that NDs receive is enough different from the traditional western system to provide a significant piece of the puzzle that would otherwise be missing. Every person deserves access to this type of care in addition to what they may already receive. It is way too important of a perspective to be missing from so many conversations because of lack of licensure!

Qualified NDs are highly trained as primary care providers who specialize in natural medicine and holistic care of the entire individual. Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases information, access and options by improving safety, increasing access to qualified providers, enriching teams of care with their collaboration and perspective, and ensuring choice for families and individuals.

As a mother, practitioner, and professor I believe that due to their extensive, qualified, high level training and holistic sense of care that Naturopathic Doctors must be allowed as Primary Care Providers in Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Kerstin Keber Smith
7314 Pond View Rd
Middleton, WI 5356

Sarah M. Nelson, DC

September 29, 2021

5124 Farwell St.
McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 279.7560
sarahmnelsondc@gmail.com

Thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill, and thank you to the members of the Senate and Committees for listening today to my heartfelt points on the topic at hand. On that, please know that I unequivocally support the language in this bill and see it as only enhancing the supportive care I provide in my Chiropractic clinic.

My name is Sarah Nelson, I have been a licensed practicing Chiropractor in WI for over 20 years. I come to you with the confidence that you will understand the importance of this bill for both the community at large, and honestly for the collective group of my own patients, to whom I have promised first to do no harm.

Natural medicine is so intimately related to my practice model that I have found myself innumerable times needing a colleague to whom I can refer patients who need more help than what my biomechanical approach can offer. I have had excellent clinical collaboration with ND's who have been able to speak my same language. Coming from a similar platform of education, we are able to corroborate and have a professional understanding of diagnosis, treatment options, and intervention. I believe communication is one of the biggest impediments to healthcare in general right now, and this bill gives me the confidence that the ND, to whom I refer my trusted patients, is competent and has the clinical prowess to care for them safely and effectively. That is my goal with canceling my own clinic schedule today and making the effort to be here with you, is that you help us have succinct delineation within the healthcare profession. Supporting bill SB532 only helps the chiropractors of WI uphold their Hippocratic oath.

I'd like to give you a quick anecdote about a moment I had in Hawaii that resonates with movement at hand. I was at a farmer's market, and a guy was advertising "Chiropractic Adjustments". My mom was with me and needed

treatment that I could not provide without equipment. I watched the guy do what I do myself the majority of the day...easy side posture manipulations. BUT my mom has grade 3 Spondylolytic Spondylolisthesis with severe osteophytosis, a disc lesion and a AAA. Now, I always joke that the majority of my education is spent on when NOT to adjust a certain patient a certain way; although the majority of my actual DAY is spent doing the easy side posture manipulations that I was watching this fellow perform quite effectively. This well-meaning practitioner was helping people left and right, even though his "certificate" was from a non-accredited school: no license/no board certification. I spoke with him to see how he might be able to help my pain stricken and immobile mom; but he did not speak my same language. He was very kind to let me use his equipment to help her myself, but we did not have a common platform from which he could communicate with me for my mom's unique needs. Had my mom waited in queue and had his generalized treatment she may not have left his table. This type of activity is happening every day in Wisconsin, just not in the chiropractic realm but naturopathic medicine as well because there is not a clearly defined role and regulation for the licensing of NDs. It is rare that a group seeks MORE regulation, but in this case it is for the safety of Wisconsinites and for the cooperation of their healthcare team.

In summation, please know that I have the utmost confidence in the diagnostic capacity and clinical decision making of the ND's with whom I have professionally collaborated, and want to keep that level of excellence consistent and reliable.

I appreciate your time today.

Respectfully,

Sarah M. Nelson, DC

September 29, 2021

re: In support of Senate Bill 532 to license NDs

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate and Senators who are co-sponsors of the bill. I am Timothy Thompson. I am a retired Coast Guard veteran who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and I live in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

In January 2011 I was diagnosed with stage 3 Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. The VA determined this was a result of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. I immediately started chemotherapy that same month.

I had already been seeing an ND and after consulting with her, she provided guidance on diet, nutrition and recommended two supplements. These supplements were not meant to interfere with nor replace the chemotherapy recommended by my Oncologist.

I provided my Oncologist with written documentation from the Mayo Clinic and Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on both supplements. She would not look at nor discuss the use of these supplements. Her response was it is my life but she was against their use. The ND was not a licensed doctor in Wisconsin and should not be making such recommendations.

During chemotherapy sessions I heard many patients being denied treatment due to a weakened immune system. I also personally talked with several patients who had been very ill, admitted to the hospital and missed critical treatment due to a weakened immune system. While I felt weak and sick from chemo, I never had to go to a hospital and never missed a scheduled treatment.

Upon completion of chemotherapy in June 2011 I was given a PET Scan and no cancer was found. My Oncologist told me I was one of her rare patients who never was admitted to a hospital nor never missed a scheduled chemotherapy session. I am now over 10 years cancer free. The mortality rate for stage 3 or 4 Lymphoma is in excess of 30%.

I consider the advice given to me by my ND to be the reason I am here speaking to you today. Over 20,000 persons are predicted to die from Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2021. How many of these could have benefitted by the advice of an ND had they been licensed in Wisconsin? I urge you to support this bill and give Naturopathic Doctors the voice citizens of Wisconsin need in patient care.

Tim Thompson
1601 Hoel Ave Apt 311
Stoughton, WI 53589
greenautos@inbox.com

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate bill 532

Madame Speaker, members of the senate, thank you to Senator

Bernier, as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being cosponsors of the bill.

My name is Kirke Plank, I live in Janesville, Wisconsin and I'm grateful for this opportunity to come before you today to share my beliefs and experiences with naturopathic medicine.

As you are aware licensure is currently in place for about half the states and territories as well as about half of the Canadian Provinces.

I first got introduced to naturopathic medicine in the late 1990s and truly it has been a godsend. What I love about the discipline is the ability to partner with a medical practitioner to truly focus on wellness. My experience has been that my doctor spends enough time with me to actually get to know me as a person and not just some current symptom that I may be experiencing. That relationship is the foundation in creating a plan to move forward to maximize overall health.

I believe licensure is a fundamental need in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, without licensure anyone with a couple of continuing education courses can hang a shingle and call themselves a naturopathic doctor. Not only is that misrepresentative it is dangerous. A true naturopathic doctor has training commensurate with that of a medical practitioner.

My hope is that very soon I will have the ability to choose a naturopathic doctor for my primary care physician – just as I could do in several other states. It's time for Wisconsin to join the other states who have embraced naturopathic medicine.

I urge you to support this bill and I thank you for your time.

Kirke Plank
4021 Bordeaux Drive
Janesville, WI 53546
kplank@gmail.com

September 29, 2021

To: Senator Felzkowski and Committee Members

Re; SB Bill 532

You heard my wife, Dr. Angela Rahm Speak, about what brought her to the more than decades long career in Natural Health. I was there for the ride as she poured herself in to learning, taking every opportunity to study and learn from leaders in the profession. And I was jealous. It is rare to see someone truly find her calling, her passion; it has all been so natural for her and every day I am amazed at what she knows and shares with people searching for answers. She continues to work tirelessly and in 2018 became Nationally Board Certified as a Naturopathic Doctor.

Our family, friends and many countless others have been able to lead better, healthier more productive lives because of my wife and many other professionals throughout Wisconsin and it would be a shame to take that away.

While this has become a career for her, and like so many of these wonderful practitioners, it was never about a paycheck it was about so much more. Most of them have a personal story that led them to study and to continue to study, explore and learn.

If you want to build a bigger stronger fence around this profession going forward, that is your right, but don't fence these incredible caregivers out.

If you insist on passing this bill, and I strongly encourage you not to, certainly not in its present form, you must look at these incredible passionate individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping others AND at the very least grandfather them in under the new provisions and allow them to continue to practice.

Thank you

Stig L. Rahm
W12230 Hillcrest Drive
Lodi, WI 53555

September 28, 2021

Position: Support SB 532

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to ask you to please support licensure for naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. I have extensive experience working with naturopathic doctors and strongly believe that they are important colleagues, helping to address the health concerns of the people of Wisconsin.

Naturopathic doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies, such as dietary supplements (commonly used by all demographics), and in the counseling about such topics as nutrition and lifestyle change, among other topics. I see naturopathic doctors as important team members to help the citizens of Wisconsin to negotiate the complex world of natural medicine, including monitoring of supplement-pharmaceutical interactions and safe dietary supplement dosing.

I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin medical school, and completed my family medicine residency in Seattle, where I was on faculty at a naturopathic medical school (Bastyr University), as well as working for Group Health Cooperative and the community clinic system. The position at Bastyr University provided me the opportunity to learn first-hand about naturopathic training, and work side-by-side with naturopathic doctors in clinical practice. They are invaluable colleagues and important in helping to meet the health care needs throughout the country. For all of these reasons, please support SB 532 for naturopathic doctor licensure.

Please contact me with any questions about this topic or my experience working with naturopathic doctors.

Sincerely,



David S. Kiefer, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Family Medicine
School of Medicine and Public Health
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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608-212-7917 (mobile)

September 29, 2021
re: Support for SB 532

My name is Melissa Oftedahl and I live in Middleton, Wisconsin.

I am here today to share my daughter Ella's story. Back in January of 2020, my healthy, then 8 year old daughter stopped eating. She went from being an adventurous eater to someone who was very afraid of food and believed it would make her sick. In a matter of days, she developed severe OCD, motor ticks, anxiety, started spitting, had extreme emotional outbursts, and was down to eating maybe 5 foods total. She would eat one granola bar the entire day while at school. We saw our primary care doctor and the only options that were given to us were Zoloft and counseling.

But my mom gut was telling me to keep digging. After going through a journey with my own health issues and finding answers with a Naturopathic Dr, I knew something more was going on inside her. A "normal" 8 year old doesn't just develop all of those things out of nowhere, so I knew I needed to look for more answers. Well, then Covid happened and everything shut down. So we spent the hardest 3 months of our lives at home, just trying to survive each day with her.

Once everything started opening up again, I made an appointment at the Family Clinic of Natural Medicine - where I have now had the opportunity to work with Dr. Henkel and Dr. Coleman to help Ella heal. Our first step was an IgG food sensitivity test to see which foods were causing Ella inflammation and other issues. After getting the test back, we removed 4 foods from her diet and went all in as a family to support her. Within 2-3 weeks of eliminating gluten, dairy, almonds, and green beans, we started to see our old Ella slowly come back to us. She started eating new foods again. Her anxiety lessened. She was less explosive, and more her happy self.

But after summer, she wasn't completely back to her old self, so we kept digging for answers and running tests. We found out that Ella has what is called PANS or PANDAS, an autoimmune condition in which part of the brain attacks itself, mistaking it for a pathogen. Working with our NDs, we started Ella on anti-inflammatories like curcumin and fish oil and a protocol that got to the root of the problem. It has helped her immensely.

This fall, she is in school full time and is thriving. She is not 100% yet, but we are on that path and would not be where we are today without well-trained Naturopathic Doctors. Thankfully, these ND's work with a medical doctor so that they could do things that Ella needed, like laboratory tests and other conventional medicine, along with her diet and supplement changes. Unfortunately, most medical-school trained ND's in Wisconsin cannot do this fully integrated approach without licensure, so most people in Wisconsin are unable to get the same care my family benefited from.

By partnering with us on this bill, you have the opportunity to help other kids like Ella. We have the means to afford care for her, but many do not. By recognizing Naturopathic Doctors and giving them the license to practice what they are trained to do, we are giving all of the people of Wisconsin the opportunity to find hope in natural \ medicine like my family has.

Thank you so much for your time.
Melissa Oftedahl
4052 Timber Lane
Cross Plains, WI 53528

September 29, 2021

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

Chairman Felzkowski, Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry:

I came today to speak to the difference my ND has made in my life. I was very ill at least 3 or 4 times a year. I went to doctor after doctor. At one point, in 2008 they took 12 inches of my colon thinking this would help it didn't. Most time, I would be unable to get out of bed for days. I was exhausted from being sick, but also exhausted from getting the run around from physicians who couldn't or wouldn't take the time to really find out what was causing me to be sick. In 2013 friend told me about Dr Aaron Henkel, an ND. I almost didn't bother as I thought it would be more of the same. I am glad I made the visit. From the 1st day, he took time to listen to what was going on with me physically, not implying it was all in my head. We scheduled a complete blood draw workup. I didn't really know what to expect.

My results came back in and I met with Dr Aaron. He explained everything about every number that came back from the labs. He told me what I needed to do nutritionally with vitamins and minerals to get my issues under control. All the years of the other doctors treating me with antibiotics and pain meds had totally wrecked my digestive and immune system. I was unable to fight anything that came around. Dr Aaron took the time that was needed to help me understand what was going on. Due to his extensive medical training, and going through something similar himself, he was able to help me. Since 2013 I have barely had a cold.

I go back for vitamin and mineral supplements. We do a blood test to see where I am at. I am going to be 61 year old this November I am not on any prescription medications. We have been able to control everything at this point with diet and supplements. You can't imagine how much money I have saved over the years. I never even imagined I could feel this great. In 2008 I thought I wouldn't even be here now as I was sure there was something very wrong, at times I didn't want to live with the pain. I thought I would not get to see my grandkids grow up. My daughter tells me she wished she had had this mom! One that could do things with her without being sick or in bed!! I spend so much time playing with my grandson!! Life is great. In my office everyone else gets sick, I am the oldest there and so far I have the best immune system of all the youngsters and the most energy!

Dr Aaron also took time also to help with my mother. She had a medical event and due to complications had dry gangrene on her toe. They had to amputate it. Then it moved to another toe. I called to ask if there was anything we could try. She had a hole in her toe the size of pencil eraser. He told me about a treatment we could try. I went out and bought it immediately. We started treatment on a Tuesday by Sunday the hole was healed. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't have seen it myself. She had a check up with her surgeon who was monitoring when they were going to have to remove the toe. We took her there and he couldn't believe it was healed up. Some may say it is a miracle, but I know it is Dr Aaron taking the time to care about his patients and doing the research from all his years of medical school and practice that saved my mom from having to lose another appendage.

My only wish is for others to find someone like Dr Aaron!

Thank you Senator Bernier, Senator Felzkowski, Senator Taylor and Senator Ringhand for being co-sponsors of this bill which would help restore medical health and wellbeing to so many.

Sincerely,

Kim Conradt

5456 Congress Avenue

Madison WI 53718

Oppose SB Bill 532

Good Afternoon and thank you members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here today regarding the ND Bill 532.

To start I am not a public speaker. I am painfully awkward, shy and suffer from extreme anxiety. But I am here because this is bigger and more important than me.

My name is Amy Difiore and I have worked with Dr. Angela over 5 years. Dr. Angela is my mentor, my leader, the woman and servant I strive to be. I have watched her work tirelessly and without complaint to help others every day. She is 100% selfless.

Dr. Angela is an information junkie who not only completes her required credits but continues to go above and beyond requirements taking more courses and credits on her own to further her scope.

So we are here today fighting for our livelihood and this is about facts.

Fact, imagine being 36 years old, young bride with your entire future ahead of you. Babies, birthdays, ball games etc. Then, your life comes to a screeching halt with news of being sick, very sick, scary sick. You and your new husband have heard all that needs to be done, treatments, appointments and the statistics.

This was our client, we will call her B. B and her husband came to see us a few years ago. She was a shell of a person. Depleted, drained, scared and I would even say done fighting. Dr. Angela being who she is first heard her out. Treated her as a person. She gave her information, love, support, kindness and hope!

Fast forward 6 months. Imagine sitting in your office and. Beautiful, healthy, happy woman walks in and you hardly recognize he because she is not grey in hue, her eyes aren't sunken in, she has gained weight and is wearing the biggest smile! This was B!

Let's face it, we don't get rich doing what we do and far from it. But we keep doing it day after day to help people and that speaks volumes on Dr. Angela's mission, knowledge, love and support towards her clients.

In a community and society that doesn't seem to want to work these days, this is all we are asking to do. This is how Angela supports her family and I support mine.

Finally, I hope none of you ever have to experience what B had to go through but I pray if you do or any of your loved ones do, that there will be doctors like Angela around to help.

Thank you,
Amy Difiore

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

Dear Chairman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry:

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate.

Thank you Senator Bernier as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being co-sponsors of the bill.

My name is Dr. David Kwon. I am an osteopathic physician, board certified to practice family medicine and have been in full time practice over 9 years. I have served as a clinical instructor for numerous medical as well as nurse practitioner students.

I have had the privilege to collaborate with several local naturopathic doctors regarding the care of mutual patients, and I am proud to report that I have been uniformly impressed with the knowledge, skill, and caring demonstrated by these healthcare professionals. I have learned from my naturopathic colleagues about many evidence based therapeutic prevention and treatment measures for a wide array of well-being issues for patients of all ages and states of health. From training into practice, there is a cohesiveness and natural respect for how the body functions. Therefore, NDs tend to select rational therapeutics in an order that allow even a body in dysfunction to move back into function.

I am well versed in the formal curriculum and comprehensive and rigorous training naturopathic physicians study and the rigorous practical training they receive. Naturopathic doctors are truly experts in drug-supplement interactions. I find the clinical reasoning and judgment of NDs I have worked with to be thorough, safe and science based. I can therefore unequivocally and enthusiastically recommend full and equivalent licensure for NDs to order pharmaceutical prescriptions and medical diagnostic testing on behalf of the patients and families they serve.

One challenge I have observed that patients receiving care from naturopathic doctors undergo is the obstacle preventing his or her ND from the provision of comprehensive and appropriate health care is the absence of said licensure. In this scenario, a scientifically sound treatment plan of impeccable integrity and quality is arranged by a Naturopathic Physician for a given patient and yet the absence of full licensure impedes this plan and results in delay in care and

redundancy and waste, and risks error when these measures must be requested from a physician colleague merely due to this limitation.

It is well documented and understood that there is a dire and substantial need for increased access to primary healthcare for many Wisconsin residents. Fully licensing our ND colleagues to independently provide this care would mark an important step in helping to address this need, especially in both rural and urban underserved locations. Additionally, if Wisconsin were to allow this full scope of licensure and practice for naturopathic doctors, many current and future NDs will undoubtedly be drawn from other states to reside and serve communities here.

As a physician, caring for Wisconsinites daily, I urge you to pass SB532 out of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kwon, DO
2 Birch Circle
Madison, WI 53711



**Full Circle
Natural Medicine**

Dawn M. Ley, ND

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**T 608.228.3261
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September 29, 2021

To: Senator Mary Felzkowski, Chair and Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry and members of the Committee

From: Dr. Dawn M. Ley, Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association

Good afternoon, Madame Chair, members of the Senate Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of SB 532 of which you are a co-sponsor along with Senator Taylor and Senator Ringhand. We also want to thank our lead senate author Senator Bernier who has supported this bill to come before you today.

My name is Dr. Dawn Ley and I am a Wisconsin native who gladly returned home to serve fellow Wisconsinites. I am a Naturopathic Doctor currently licensed in the state of Oregon. I provide integrative medical care to children and adults with common primary care complaints and integrative oncology support for patients with a diagnosis of cancer.

Today I will be highlighting the topics of pharmacology education and training as well as facts that document the safe use of pharmaceuticals by NDs, based on malpractice data.

I graduated from National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), one of the 5 naturopathic medical schools in the US accredited by the Department of Education. This is a 4-year, in residence clinical training program in which pharmacology is taught throughout a series of courses, throughout an ND's medical education.

Board examinations were required for me to progress within the training program, to obtain a license and initiate residency training. The first was a basic science board examination (completed at year 2 of 4) and the second was a clinical board examination (completed after year 4 of 4).

During the board examinations, pharmacology is an essential part of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX), and a state specific formulary exam was required in the state of Oregon. In the state of Wisconsin, we will also have a specific formulary exam for licensed NDs to ensure prescribing competency.

I sought this program out, having already worked in an acute care hospital for 5 years and knowing that that therapeutic drug use, via prescriptions would undoubtedly be a common reality for my future patient population, as an ND.

I have referenced statistics on current therapeutic drug use in my written testimony. (Tables 39, 21, 22)

Here are some statistics from recent years, currently referenced on the CDC Therapeutic Drug Use website.

- ***Percent of persons using at least one prescription drug in the past 30 days: 48.6% (2015-2018)***
- ***Percent of persons using three or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days: 24% (2015-2018)***
- ***Percent of persons using five or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days: 12.8% (2015-2018)***
- ***Percent of office visits involving drug therapy: 68.7%***
- ***Percent of emergency visits involving drug therapy: 79.5%***

Currently, I am the director of an integrative clinic here in Wisconsin, in which I have employed medical assistants, registered dietitians, registered nurses and naturopathic doctors, over the past nine years.

My clinic also functions as an approved rotation site by the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin and accepts MD/ DO/ PA students completing integrative medicine rotations. During these rotations I am trusted to teach primary care integrative medicine, including sharing expertise specifically in the areas of drug-herb and drug-nutrient interactions. We also cover the management of common drug-induced nutrient deficiencies.

The medical students on rotation at my clinic see that we manage complex patient cases. It is not uncommon to have to sift through medication interaction reports that are 50 to 100+ pages in length, then make clinical determinations and advisements to patients. This often involves instructing the patient to discontinue or modify the dose of certain supplements or over the counter products. These have typically been self-selected or recommended by unlicensed lay persons, who lack the training and expertise that licensable naturopathic doctors have. This is a current and on-going safety issue for Wisconsinites and a key reason, as to why regulation is needed.

training in pharmacology and understanding of physiology. Furthermore, to be thorough and truly function in an integrative manner, this process often involves collaboration with pharmacists, specialists, and surgical teams.

This level of advisement to patients would not be possible without my physician level training in pharmacology and understanding of physiology. Furthermore, to be thorough and truly function in an integrative manner, this process often involves collaboration with pharmacists, specialists, and surgical teams.

Within the pharmacology curriculum, naturopathic doctors learn both medical and clinical pharmacology. We study primary therapeutic uses, mechanisms of action, potential adverse side effects, and drug/drug interactions of medicines commonly encountered, including prescription drugs, controlled substances, and over the counter (OTC) medications. Additionally, we learn how to prescribe and manage pharmaceuticals for the most common presenting concerns in primary care medicine.

Naturopathic doctors have been regulated for decades in many states for the purpose of public protection and to assure safety in prescribing (AANP, 2018). This protection is provided using the proper title (naturopathic doctor), by excluding unqualified persons from practicing naturopathic medicine, and by creating a structure through which the public can report complaints and subsequently both licensees and lay practitioners can be investigated.

An important aspect of primary care is the ability to prescribe drugs so that the patient does not need to delay initiation of 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 assure patient safety.

Currently, 11 out of 25 regulated jurisdictions allow NDs broad prescriptive authority (AANP, 2018). According to the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities, between 2010-2021, disciplinary action was only taken against 62 NDs out of 5700 practicing NDs in these regulated jurisdictions (FNMRA, 2021).

When we assess the current and historical malpractice data, it can be objectively demonstrated that NDs have fewer disciplinary actions taken against them, compared to MD/ DOs. In fact, compared to an MD, NDs make mistakes 11 times less in prescribing. The reason for this is two-fold. In addition to the fact that NDs are trained to prescribe safely, NDs often do not prescribe as frequently as an MD, as NDs prefer to use natural means (when appropriate and safe) to address an issue rather than pharmaceuticals (FNMRA, 2021),

See the letter of support from the FNMRA detailing these statistics.

I want to iterate that we understand in order to assure pharmacy competency there will be a process. After the board is established, rules must be written and a formulary committee will be established. Doctors would have to sit for a formulary exam to become licensed in Wisconsin.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with two common case scenarios (INM, 2021).

In both of these examples a naturopathic doctor may use pharmacology in addition to natural therapies to treat acute or chronic illness:

1) A hypertensive patient with a comprehensive physical exam showing multiple signs of ongoing vascular damage including swollen ankles, skin discoloration, hair loss, and multiple blood pressure readings of 200 over 120. A detailed intake reveals that the patient's diet consists largely of fast food and coffee. In this case, the patient requires a high level of intervention to prevent further harm, and the ND is likely to write a prescription for an anti-hypertensive drug, a diuretic, and refer the patient to a cardiologist for further testing. This is in addition to recommending significant lifestyle changes and other natural medicine approaches.

2) A patient is traveling and has left his "rescue inhaler" for asthma at home. He encounters an irritant (e.g. an excessive amount of smoke), and is wheezing and experiencing difficulty breathing. The ND would call in a prescription for an inhaler and work to restore the patient's health with natural approaches when he returns to his hometown.

Overall, you can see through these examples that naturopathic doctors believe that natural medicine and conventional medicine are not mutually exclusive. They recognize that there are times when both approaches can be utilized together for the patient's benefit.

Licensing of naturopathic doctors will create access for Wisconsinites to choose trained doctors, who can provide safe and appropriate prescriptive guidance within the context of their overall healthcare.

I urge you to pass SB 532 out of your committee.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Ley, N.D.

Dr. Dawn M. Ley

Citations:

1. *Table 39. prescription drug use in the past 30 days, by ...* (n.d.). Retrieved September 29, 2021, from <http://www.synas.plus/nchs/data/hus/2019/039-508.pdf>.
2. *Table 21. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2018.* Retrieved September 29, 2021, from [National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2018 National Summary \(cdc.gov\)](#)
3. *Table 22. Office drug visits and drug mentions, by physician characteristics: United States, 2018.* Retrieved September 29, 2021, from [National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2018 National Summary \(cdc.gov\)](#)
4. *AANP, Alaska Association Of Naturopathic Physicians, Regulated States Prescribing Authority (Map)*, February, 2018.
5. *INM, Naturopathic Medicine –2019 Pharmacology Frequently Asked Questions*, September 29, 2021.
6. *FNMRA, Letter of Support for House Bill 529 Regulation of the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine in Wisconsin (Draft Letter)*, September 29, 2021.

Table 39. Prescription drug use in the past 30 days, by sex, race and Hispanic origin, and age: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2015–2018

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.htm#Table-039>

[Data are based on a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Sex, race and Hispanic origin ¹ , and age	At least one prescription drug in past 30 days				Three or more prescription drugs in past 30 days				Five or more prescription drugs in past 30 days			
	1988–1994	1999–2002	2011–2014	2015–2018	1988–1994	1999–2002	2011–2014	2015–2018	1988–1994	1999–2002	2011–2014	2015–2018
All ages, age adjusted ²												
Percent of population												
Both sexes ³	39.1	45.2	46.9	45.7	11.8	17.8	21.5	21.3	4.0	7.5	10.9	11.2
Male	32.7	39.8	42.6	41.7	9.4	14.8	19.7	20.0	2.9	6.1	9.7	10.8
Female	45.0	50.3	51.2	49.5	13.9	20.4	23.2	22.6	4.9	8.7	12.0	11.6
Not Hispanic or Latino:												
White only	41.1	48.7	51.9	49.7	12.4	18.9	23.1	22.8	4.2	7.8	11.5	12.0
White only, male	34.2	43.0	46.8	45.5	9.9	15.9	21.0	21.4	3.1	6.3	10.2	11.7
White only, female	47.6	54.3	57.0	53.9	14.6	21.8	25.1	24.3	5.1	9.2	12.8	12.2
Black or African American only	36.9	40.1	44.2	43.3	12.6	16.5	22.5	21.1	3.8	7.7	12.1	12.4
Black or African American only, male	31.1	35.4	38.3	39.8	10.2	14.5	19.4	19.1	2.9	6.4	10.1	10.9
Black or African American only, female	41.4	43.8	49.0	46.1	14.3	18.1	24.9	22.7	4.5	8.7	13.7	13.5
Asian only	---	---	34.3	35.4	---	---	14.3	14.7	---	---	6.2	6.6
Asian only, male	---	---	31.9	32.9	---	---	14.1	15.4	---	---	6.2	6.9
Asian only, female	---	---	36.3	37.6	---	---	14.6	14.1	---	---	6.1	6.3
Hispanic or Latino	---	---	35.7	37.7	---	---	16.0	17.9	---	---	8.4	9.0
Hispanic or Latino, male	---	---	32.1	33.1	---	---	15.0	17.0	---	---	7.9	8.3
Hispanic or Latina, female	---	---	39.2	42.3	---	---	17.1	18.7	---	---	8.8	9.7
Mexican origin	31.7	31.7	34.2	36.2	9.0	11.2	15.9	18.0	2.9	4.4	8.7	9.1
Mexican origin, male	27.5	25.8	31.8	32.1	7.0	9.5	14.9	17.3	2.0	3.5	8.2	9.1
Mexican origin, female	36.0	37.8	36.9	40.7	11.0	12.8	17.0	18.7	3.7	5.2	9.2	9.2
All ages, crude												
Both sexes ³	37.8	45.0	48.9	48.6	11.0	17.6	23.1	24.0	3.6	7.4	11.9	12.8
Male	30.6	38.6	43.7	43.8	8.3	13.9	20.4	21.7	2.5	5.6	10.0	11.8
Female	44.6	51.1	53.9	53.1	13.6	21.1	25.8	26.1	4.7	9.1	13.6	13.7
Not Hispanic or Latino:												
White only	41.4	50.7	57.0	55.5	12.5	20.6	27.7	28.6	4.2	8.7	14.3	15.5
White only, male	33.5	43.8	51.4	50.5	9.5	16.5	24.6	25.9	2.9	6.6	12.1	14.5
White only, female	48.9	57.5	62.4	60.3	15.4	24.5	30.7	31.1	5.4	10.8	16.4	16.4
Black or African American only	31.2	36.0	42.8	42.9	9.2	13.5	21.1	20.5	2.6	6.2	11.2	11.8
Black or African American only, male	25.5	30.7	36.3	38.1	7.0	10.9	17.5	17.3	1.8	4.8	8.9	9.5
Black or African American only, female	36.2	40.6	48.5	47.0	11.1	15.7	24.2	23.2	3.3	7.4	13.1	13.8
Asian only	---	---	34.0	36.6	---	---	13.6	14.9	---	---	5.7	6.6
Asian only, male	---	---	30.5	32.5	---	---	12.6	14.8	---	---	5.5	6.5
Asian only, female	---	---	37.1	40.3	---	---	14.5	15.0	---	---	6.0	6.7
Hispanic or Latino	---	---	29.5	32.7	---	---	10.9	13.5	---	---	5.3	6.3
Hispanic or Latino, male	---	---	25.4	27.6	---	---	9.3	12.4	---	---	4.6	5.5
Hispanic or Latina, female	---	---	33.5	37.7	---	---	12.6	14.6	---	---	6.0	7.2
Mexican origin	24.0	23.6	27.0	30.2	4.8	6.1	9.8	12.5	1.4	2.1	4.9	5.8
Mexican origin, male	20.1	18.8	24.9	26.1	3.4	4.8	9.0	11.9	0.9	1.6	4.6	5.5
Mexican origin, female	28.1	28.9	29.3	34.3	6.4	7.5	10.8	13.1	1.9	2.7	5.4	6.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 39. Prescription drug use in the past 30 days, by sex, race and Hispanic origin, and age: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2015–2018—Con.

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.htm#Table-039>

[Data are based on a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Sex, race and Hispanic origin ¹ , and age	At least one prescription drug in past 30 days				Three or more prescription drugs in past 30 days				Five or more prescription drugs in past 30 days			
	1988– 1994	1999– 2002	2011– 2014	2015– 2018	1988– 1994	1999– 2002	2011– 2014	2015– 2018	1988– 1994	1999– 2002	2011– 2014	2015– 2018
All ages, crude—Con.												
Percent of population												
Both sexes:												
Under 18 years.....	20.5	23.8	21.5	21.5	2.4	4.1	3.9	3.4	*	*0.8	0.8	1.0
18–44 years.....	31.3	35.9	37.1	35.7	5.7	8.4	10.1	10.1	1.2	2.3	3.9	4.2
45–64 years.....	54.8	64.1	69.0	67.1	20.0	30.8	36.4	36.5	7.4	13.3	18.3	18.0
65 years and over.....	73.6	84.7	90.6	88.5	35.3	51.8	66.8	66.4	13.8	27.1	40.7	41.9
Male:												
Under 18 years.....	20.4	25.7	21.1	23.3	2.6	4.3	4.3	3.9	*	*	0.9	1.2
18–44 years.....	21.5	27.1	28.8	27.0	3.6	6.7	7.5	8.2	*0.8	1.7	3.0	3.4
45–64 years.....	47.2	55.6	65.6	62.9	15.1	23.6	33.0	33.8	4.8	9.5	15.7	17.4
65 years and over.....	67.2	80.1	88.7	87.9	31.3	46.3	65.2	65.5	11.3	24.7	38.4	42.0
Female:												
Under 18 years.....	20.6	21.7	22.0	19.6	2.3	3.9	3.5	2.9	*	*0.8	*	0.7
18–44 years.....	40.7	44.6	45.3	44.2	7.6	10.2	12.6	11.9	1.7	2.8	4.8	5.0
45–64 years.....	62.0	72.0	72.1	71.0	24.7	37.5	39.4	38.9	9.7	16.8	20.7	18.7
65 years and over.....	78.3	88.1	92.1	88.9	38.2	55.9	68.1	67.1	15.6	28.9	42.6	41.9

--- Data not available.

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2013–2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates is assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Before 2013–2016 data, the reliability of estimates was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSEs). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).

¹ Persons of Hispanic or Mexican origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 “Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity” and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The non-Hispanic race categories shown follow the 1997 standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Before 1999, estimates were tabulated according to the 1977 standards. Estimates for single-race categories before 1999 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

² Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using four age groups: under 18 years, 18–44 years, 45–64 years, and 65 years and over. Age-adjusted estimates in this table may differ from other age-adjusted estimates based on the same data and presented elsewhere if different age groups are used in the adjustment procedure. See Appendix II, Age adjustment.

³ Includes persons of all races and Hispanic origins, not just those shown separately.

NOTES: See Appendix II, Drug. Standard errors and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. See Appendix I, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

Table 21. Medication therapy and number of medications mentioned at office visits, by patient sex: United States, 2018

Medication therapy ¹	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error of percent)		
		Both sexes	Female ²	Male ³
All visits	860,386 (37,935)	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...
Visits with mention of medication ⁴	590,855 (31,028)	68.7 (2.2)	67.2 (2.8)	70.8 (2.1)
Visits without mention of medication	255,550 (21,719)	29.7 (2.1)	31.1 (2.7)	27.7 (2.1)
Blank	*13,981 (6,945)	1.6 (0.8)	1.7 (0.9)	1.6 (0.7)
Number of medications provided or prescribed				
All visits	860,386 (37,935)	100.0 ...	100.0 ...	100.0 ...
0	255,550 (21,719)	29.7 (2.1)	31.1 (2.7)	27.7 (2.1)
1	165,098 (10,015)	19.2 (1.0)	17.5 (1.3)	21.6 (1.3)
2	93,467 (6,287)	10.9 (0.7)	10.9 (0.8)	10.9 (0.9)
3	73,472 (6,814)	8.5 (0.7)	8.8 (0.8)	8.2 (0.9)
4	51,735 (5,293)	6.0 (0.6)	5.7 (0.7)	6.4 (0.7)
5	42,012 (4,232)	4.9 (0.5)	5.0 (0.6)	4.7 (0.5)
6	29,239 (4,030)	3.4 (0.4)	3.7 (0.5)	3.0 (0.4)
7	24,602 (3,383)	2.9 (0.4)	2.9 (0.5)	2.8 (0.4)
8	24,991 (3,052)	2.9 (0.3)	3.3 (0.5)	2.4 (0.3)
9	18,503 (2,745)	2.2 (0.3)	2.0 (0.4)	2.4 (0.4)
10	10,493 (1,647)	1.2 (0.2)	1.2 (0.2)	1.3 (0.3)
11	8,695 (1,533)	1.0 (0.2)	0.9 (0.2)	1.2 (0.3)
12	10,173 (1,795)	1.2 (0.2)	1.0 (0.2)	1.4 (0.3)
13	7,970 (1,639)	0.9 (0.2)	0.7 (0.2)	1.2 (0.3)
14	7,388 (1,792)	0.9 (0.2)	0.9 (0.2)	0.8 (0.3)
15 or more	23,018 (4,208)	2.7 (0.5)	2.7 (0.6)	2.7 (0.5)
Blank	*13,981 (6,945)	1.6 (0.8)	1.7 (0.9)	1.6 (0.7)

... Category not applicable.

* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability.

¹Includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter preparations, immunizations, and desensitizing agents.²Based on 507,122,000 visits made by females.³Based on 353,263,000 visits made by males.⁴A drug mention is documentation in a patient's record of a drug provided, prescribed, or continued at a visit (up to 30 per visit); also defined as drug visits.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2018.

Table 22. Office drug visits and drug mentions, by physician characteristics: United States, 2018

Physician characteristic	Drug visits ¹		Drug mentions ²		Percent of office visits with drug mentions ³ (standard error of percent)	Drug mention rates ⁴ (standard error of rate)
	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error) of percent	Number of visits (standard error) in thousands	Percent distribution (standard error) of percent		
All physicians	590,855 (31,028)	100.0 ...	2,676,847 (217,196)	100.0 ...	68.7 (2.2)	311.1 (19.7)
Physician specialty						
Primary care	319,057 (26,459)	54.0 (2.6)	1,371,089 (175,749)	51.2 (4.0)	72.5 (2.8)	311.5 (29.7)
Medical specialty	113,219 (12,013)	19.2 (2.0)	563,484 (86,986)	21.1 (3.2)	55.5 (5.3)	276.3 (32.0)
Surgical specialty	158,578 (15,876)	26.8 (2.5)	742,274 (111,903)	27.7 (3.8)	73.3 (3.0)	343.2 (39.8)
Professional degree						
Doctor of medicine	547,724 (30,066)	92.7 (1.3)	2,497,170 (212,935)	93.3 (1.6)	68.2 (2.3)	310.8 (20.8)
Doctor of osteopathy	43,131 (7,665)	7.3 (1.3)	179,678 (42,813)	6.7 (1.6)	75.7 (5.1)	315.3 (49.6)

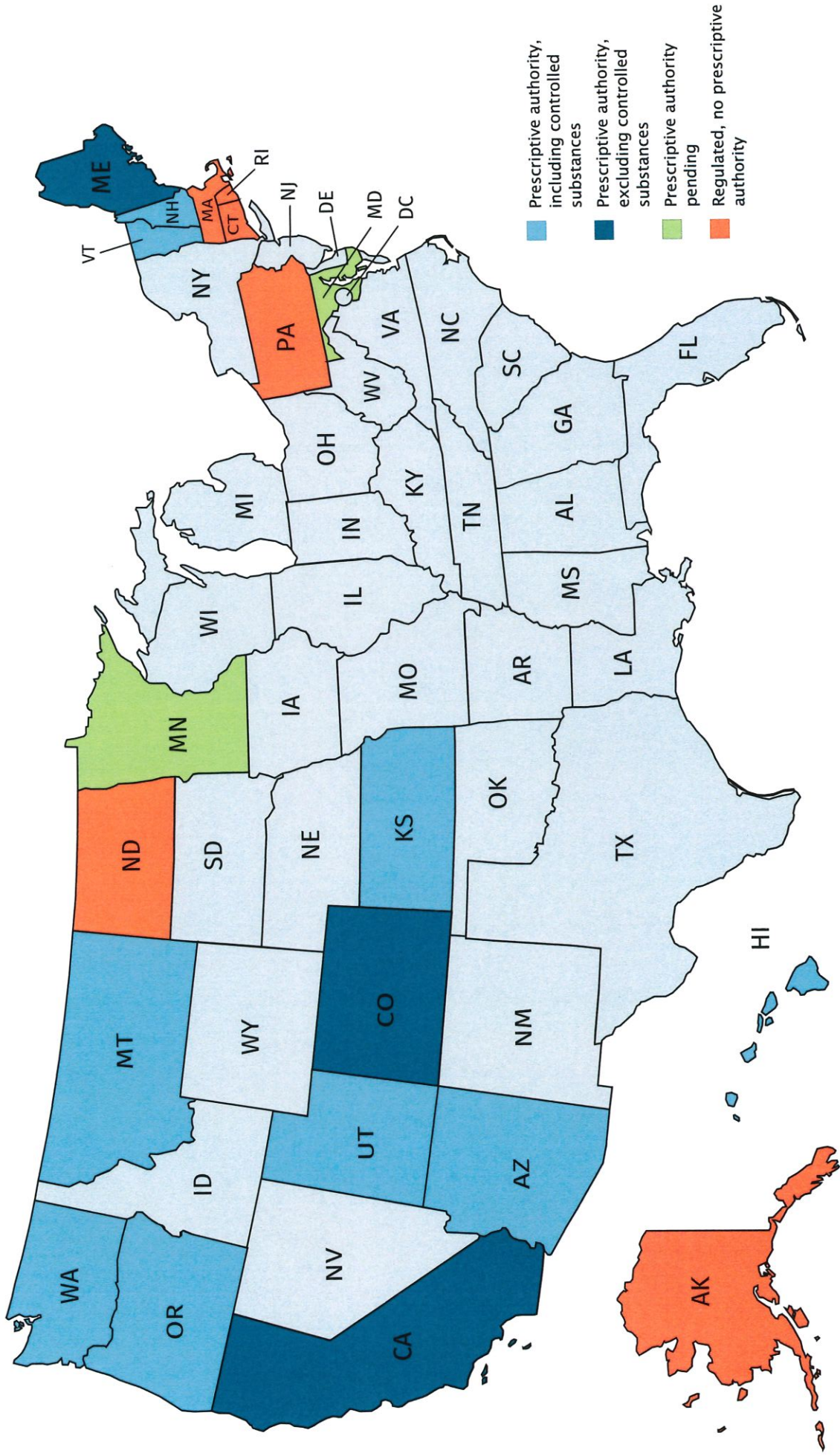
... Category not applicable.

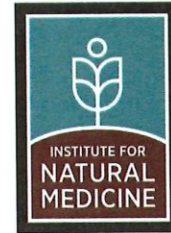
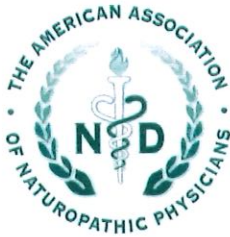
¹Visits at which one or more drugs were provided or prescribed.²A drug mention is documentation in a patient's record of a drug provided, prescribed, or continued at a visit (up to 30 per visit); also defined as drug visits.³Percentage of visits that included one or more drugs provided or prescribed (number of drug visits divided by total number of office visits multiplied by 100).⁴Average number of drugs that were provided or prescribed per 100 visits (total number of drug mentions divided by total number of visits multiplied by 100).

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, 2018.

Regulated States Prescribing Authority
Updated February, 2018





Naturopathic Medicine: Frequently Asked Questions

A service for consumers from the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) and the Institute for Natural Medicine (INM).

The INM and AANP would like to acknowledge [Christie Fleetwood, ND, RPh](#), for her contributions to the content of this FAQ.

Do naturopathic doctors prescribe medication?

Licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs) are trained as primary care providers to diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illness. NDs complete rigorous education in pharmaceutical drugs during their four-year, science-based medical education, and they may prescribe medications when indicated as allowed by state regulations. However, naturopathic doctors typically don't prescribe drugs at the first sign of symptoms or trouble. Instead, NDs choose to work with natural, less invasive therapies without strong side effect profiles before reaching for the prescription pad. They support and enhance a patient's innate capacity for healing with evidence-based therapies such as lifestyle modification, clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, and behavioral medicine, to name a few.

Pharmacology education and training

Pharmacology is taught through a series of courses that build upon each other through an ND's medical education. This training is reinforced through a minimum of 1,200 hours of hands-on, clinical training. [Naturopathic medical programs are accredited](#) and are recognized by the United States Department of Education. Pharmacology is an essential part of the [Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination \(NPLEX\)](#), the passage of which is required before a doctor of naturopathic medicine can be licensed or regulated by a state/province.

As part of the pharmacology curriculum, naturopathic doctors learn both medical and clinical pharmacology. They study primary therapeutic uses, mechanisms of action, potential adverse effects, and drug/drug interactions of medicines commonly encountered, including prescription drugs, controlled substances, and over the counter (OTC) medications. Additionally, they learn how to prescribe and manage pharmaceuticals for the most common presenting concerns in primary care medicine.

While pharmacology coursework is comparable to that taught in conventional medical schools, NDs receive additional training and focus in two important areas:

1. **Botanical or herb/drug and supplement/drug interactions.** [Seventy-five percent of Americans regularly take herbs and dietary supplements](#), and they don't always inform their primary care doctor. Naturopathic doctors complete approximately 130 classroom hours of botanical medicine education. This

encompasses the science and practice of using medicinal plants and extracts to improve overall health, support wellness, and treat acute and chronic disease. An extensive knowledge of herbs and supplements allows NDs to better help guide patients and prevent harmful interactions.

2. **Identification of nutrient depletions caused by long-term use of drugs.** Some of the [most commonly prescribed or recommended drugs](#) can interfere with or cause deficiencies of vital nutrients with ongoing use. These include medicines prescribed for acid reflux, heartburn, cholesterol, and more. Naturopathic doctors are expert at identifying signs of nutrient depletion, and apply their extensive knowledge of clinical nutrition and botanical medicine to help reverse these harmful side effects.

NDs are also trained to identify when and whether a patient is overmedicated, and when prescriptions, OTC medicines, and supplements can be tapered off or discontinued.

When NDs Use Pharmaceuticals

Naturopathic doctors prescribe drugs based on available evidence, clinical experience, patient preference, and the [Therapeutic Order](#). They match the patient's level of health and pathology with the necessary level of intervention. As a principle, naturopathic doctors support and enhance the [body's inherent ability to heal](#) itself. They utilize a deep toolbox of natural therapies to help get a patient healthy enough to heal disease without strong interventions. Yet when a [careful assessment](#) of lifestyle, social/emotional factors, physical exam, and/or targeted laboratory testing reveals that the patient is not able to heal with natural therapies, NDs will refer or prescribe appropriate medicine.

The Therapeutic Order is the framework NDs use to evaluate the patient's obstacles to healing and to choose therapeutic approaches in the most logical, least invasive ways first. If NDs do prescribe medication, they anticipate and address potential side effects of that medication with natural therapies. For example, if a patient requires antibiotics, which are known to wipe out needed, healthy bacteria in the microbiome in addition to harmful bacteria, NDs may also prescribe probiotic foods or supplements to help keep the GI system in healthy balance.

Here are two care scenarios when a naturopathic doctor may use pharmacology in addition to natural therapies to treat acute or chronic illness:

- 1) A hypertensive patient with a comprehensive physical exam showing multiple signs of ongoing vascular damage including swollen ankles, skin discoloration, hair loss, and multiple blood pressure readings of 200 over 120. A detailed intake reveals that the patient's diet consists largely of fast food and coffee. In this case, the patient requires a high level of intervention to prevent further harm, and the ND is likely to write a prescription for an anti-hypertensive drug, a diuretic, and refer the patient to a cardiologist for further testing. This is in addition to recommending significant lifestyle changes and other natural medicine approaches.
- 2) A patient is traveling and has left his "rescue inhaler" for asthma at home. He encounters an irritant (e.g. an excessive amount of smoke), and is wheezing and experiencing difficulty breathing. The ND would call in a prescription for an inhaler and work to restore the patient's health with natural approaches when he returns to his hometown.

Overall, naturopathic doctors believe that natural medicine and conventional medicine are not mutually exclusive. They recognize that there are times when both approaches can be utilized together for the patient's benefit.

September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532 to license NDs

Dear Senators, colleagues, and friends of Wisconsin. Thank you for the honor of presenting.

My name is Jonathan Cotter. I have the privilege to be a physician, Board-certified in Family Medicine since 2006. I also have had the great pleasure of serving as collaborating MD with the Family Clinic of Natural Medicine, here in Madison. Seven years ago, after a meeting at the University, on passing the Clinic and joking to my wife that I had started a clinic by the same name many years ago in San Diego, after getting my doctorate in Oriental Medicine, we visited, were greeted very warmly, and were very impressed. I was thereafter honored by being invited onto their clinical team as a collaborating physician.

Admittedly, my first impression was that this invitation clearly reflected the Clinic's commitment to being conscientious, in that my having served as a family physician, hospitalist, and Emergency Physician, as well as having been certified in Functional Medicine, would allow me to provide support and academic balance to their team. I was to discover that I was to be on the receiving end of an extraordinary amount of insight and appreciation for the power of naturopathic medicine.

The clinical skills of our naturopathic colleagues, coupled with access to these medical privileges, has provided a basis for outstanding clinical results. In many cases, patients who had not gotten sufficient benefit with conventional therapy alone then sought naturopathic care, and did very well, not only on the basis of having access to comprehensive care but also to preventative therapies that naturopathy can uniquely offer. Naturopathic Doctors are trained in diagnosing and treating diseases, and their critically important work is a foundational aspect of providing quality medical care.

Often, years before a person develops a chronic degenerative illness which requires medical management, there is opportunity to help improve the vitality and resilience of an individual, to help avoid starting down a path to chronic illness. The vitally important skills that my naturopathic colleagues practice, including detoxification, regulating immune function, supporting a healthy stress response, and strengthening resistance to disease were simply beyond the scope of my education, even at Oberlin College and in the world-class University of Wisconsin system. For example, the Journal of Pediatrics

reports that in the US we are exposed to 247 pounds of chemicals per person per day. This intense toxic load requires a high level of nutrition to generate the detoxifying biological compounds that allow us to resist disease. One can take a boatload of oral nutrients which offer very little real benefit because of impaired absorption, especially in the context of gut dysfunction, another very prevalent issue in which our naturopathic colleagues have very advanced training.

Medical privileges which I enjoy as a physician, implemented so effectively at the Family Clinic of Natural Medicine, include obtaining lab studies and performing IVs, (including IV nutritional supplementation, which offers profoundly greater potential for absorption and utilization of nutrients). The clinical skills of our naturopathic colleagues, coupled with access to these medical privileges, has provided a basis for outstanding clinical results. Naturopaths are trained in diagnosing and treating diseases, and their critically important work is a foundational aspect of providing quality medical care.

We face a potent challenge, worsening over time, related to physician shortages, especially in rural Wisconsin. If our naturopathic colleagues were to be empowered to expand the spectrum of their care, this would not only greatly expand access to excellent medical care generally, but also would specifically potentiate the unique skills in preventative medicine in which naturopathic medicine particularly excels.

Augmenting the clinical privileges of our naturopathic colleagues could potentially be the most practical, significant, and readily available means to deal with this formidable crisis of more people with more profound illness, needing more care in the face of less access to health professionals.

Thank you for the great privilege to greet you and to present today.

Jonathan Cotter, MD, DOM
184901 County Road N
Birnamwood WWI 54414
715-432-6642 (cell)

State of Wisconsin
Senate Committee on Insurance Licensing and Forestry

September 29, 2021

Chairman Felzkowski

Senator Bernier, Senator Taylor, Senator Ringhand (co-sponsors of the WNDA Bill)

My name is Carolyn Flanagan Seierstad. I live in Janesville.

I first sought the help of Dr. Allison Becker, a Naturopathic Doctor, 15 years ago, at the suggestion of my daughter, Sarah.

I have always been very healthy. However at 63 years of age, I found I was slowing down physically and mentally.

I was very comfortable with Dr. Becker right from the start and it wasn't long before my health improved dramatically.

Immediately upon becoming her patient, she took sufficient time to learn about my whole body, my life experiences, my family, my need to be aware of and involved in my own health care.

The depth of her interest and concern was something I'd never experienced. She taught me the relationship between my emotional, mental, spiritual and physical health and how to best maintain them all at high levels.

Dr. Becker introduced me to several supplements what proved to be very effective in keeping my body strong and mobile. Her way of explaining what was best for me encouraged me to follow her directions. If I had questions or concerns, she always listened, considered them, then together, we came up with a plan.

During the time I've been seeing Dr. Becker, she never tried to talk me out of continuing my care with my Primary Physician. My medical doctor has always been aware of and agreed with my decision to have Dr. Becker actively involved in my health care. They have worked together in ensuring I received all necessary lab work, imaging and other procedures that aren't available to naturopaths.

My peace of mind is very important to my feelings of well-being and therefore enhance my mental, emotional, and physical health. Today, at the age of 78, I have never underestimated the tremendous benefit of Dr. Becker's care. To put it simply, she's just

plain good for me. I never question whether I can reach her at any time, no matter where I am. She always has time to help figure out what I need to do when I'm not well.

One example occurred two years ago when I was hospitalized in Florida with severe diverticulitis. My treatment there went well and I recovered following four days as an inpatient. However, I had another attack on our way home the following month. It was a weekend. I could not reach my medical doctor in Janesville or Florida. My pain was terrible and I was afraid of going to an emergency room in a strange area.

But, I could reach Dr. Becker. She gave me a list of supplements I could purchase at a nearby Health Food store, and explained in detail how to use them. Just talking to her reassured me and eased my troubled mind. Although the pain didn't go away totally, I was able to get home.

I believe the licensing of naturopathic doctors would increase the care they can provide for their patients. And, it would make them more available to others who, like me, would find their knowledge and expertise in treating the whole body extremely beneficial in maintaining optimum health.

Thank you.

Carolyn Flanagan Seierstad

September 29, 2021

re: support for Senate Bill 532

Chairman Felzkowski and Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance , Licensing , and Forestry.

My name is Nancy Buck and I live in Dodgeville, Wi. I also am a retired RN and am writing to tell you of the excellent care I've received from Dr Dawn Ley.

I sought care from Dr Ley, because I wanted a more complete holistic look at my health concerns including medications as well as natural solutions. She is knowledgeable in all aspects of patient care. She has utilized different tests to find effective treatments for me. I have felt much better since following her advice and recommendations and my blood tests are showing my body is becoming healthier. Having already had surgical intervention for my clogged carotid artery, I was seeking more information on other ways to improve my overall health..

I believe Wisconsin needs Naturopathic Doctors who will be graduates from an accredited school of Naturopathic Medicine and licensed with all prescriptive rights who will be able to work independently.

Thank you for considering this important legislative action and fully support it's passage.

Nancy Buck, RN BSN



FUNCTIONAL INDIVIDUAL TRANSFORMATION

September 29, 2021

Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate. Thank you, Senator Bernier, as well as Senators Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being cosponsors of the bill. I am Hallie Ringhand and I live in Madison Wisconsin. I have a Masters degree in marriage and family therapy and practice as a certified holistic health coach and corrective exercise business owner with over 30 years of experience.

I sought out Dr. Dawn Ley's care in 2016 for my, then 15-year-old daughter, Cassie's ongoing, debilitating digestive and auto-immune issues. Cassie had suffered with digestive issues since infancy, and we were both saddened and tired of seeing her in pain and her doctors not being able to find the root cause of her issues. Since that time, our entire family has experienced life-changing health care from Dr. Ley.

I have taken on the role as the health leader in my family and as such I do the shopping, cooking, exercise programming and facilitation for overall comprehensive health care. The targeted dietary piece, overall comprehensive assessment, and dissemination of labs with prescriptive solutions of Dr. Ley's care have been and continue to be an integral piece of the healing process.

My husband Jeff, who's family has a history of digestive cancers, has suffered with digestive issues since his youth. Because of his follow through with Dr. Ley's dietary recommendations, he no longer has extreme and worrisome digestive issues as confirmed by a negative colonoscopy test.

My son, Jacob no longer suffers from migraine headaches, scattered thoughts and focus or recurring upper respiratory infections and is a more content, successful 3.9 GPA UW-Madison business school student and entrepreneur.

My daughter, Cassie, no longer suffers from debilitating digestive issues, depression and anxiety, and currently works as a successful assistant buyer for Kohl's and will be running in her first half marathon this fall. She has been able to increase her endurance, strength and speed both as a competitive swimmer and now runner in part because of Dr. Ley's care.

I have been able to manage the symptoms of early menopause because of my follow through with Dr. Ley's dietary recommendations, her safe and comprehensive understanding of drug hormone therapies and referrals when appropriate. I would not be able to keep up with the

rigor of being an independent business owner and family health leader without her knowledge and support.

1.

Collaboration with my medical doctors for labs that allowed for Dr. Ley to make accurate and targeted treatment protocols, has been time and energy consuming. The numerous phone calls, time on hold and ongoing appointments to get the information that allowed me and my family to get better is the last thing anyone wants when they are not feeling well.

Licensing will make a substantial difference in the time, money and energy patients have to spend in order to get life changing care. The full scope of training required of a licensed naturopathic doctor will allow for the seamless, cost effective, collaborative care we so desperately need, especially now, in this state.

I URGE YOU TO PASS SB 532 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE.

Thank you for your consideration,
Hallie Ringhand, Owner & Founder New U, LLC



New U, LLC

(608)212-2154

www.newutoday.com

2960 Triverton Pike Drive #107, Madison, WI 53711



WISCONSIN ACADEMY of FAMILY PHYSICIANS

DATE: September 29, 2021
TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry
FROM: The Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians
RE: Senate Bill 532 – Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors

While the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians (WAFP) are not opposed to naturopathic practitioners creating a board to regulate their practice, WAFP has significant concerns on the following aspects of the proposals:

- 1. Providing Naturopathic Practitioners the Ability to Prescribe Medication**
 - WAFP does not believe enabling an entirely new class of unqualified practitioners to prescribe medication is in the best interest of patient safety.
 - Additionally, naturopathic practitioners typically do not prescribe medication as a cornerstone of their practice, which we believe calls into question the bills' intent in enabling them to do so.

- 2. Ceding all Scope of Practice Authority to an Unelected Board**
 - The legislation provides all future authority to define scope of practice to a newly created naturopathic regulatory board.
 - Scope of practice definitions are traditionally the authority of the legislature.
 - The legislature rightfully determines scope of practice limitations for the essential goal of ensuring practitioners practice within their education and training in order to preserve patient safety.
 - The legislature should not cede that authority to an unelected board to define what its own practitioners are legally allowed to do.

- 3. Creation of the terms "Naturopathic Medical Doctor," "NMD," "Naturopathic Medicine," "Naturopathic Doctor," and "Naturopathic Physician"**
 - These terms create confusion among patients as to the type of care they are pursuing and who is providing that care.
 - Naturopathic health care and health care provided by physicians are distinctly different practices.
 - WAFP believes it is essential to make a clear distinction for patients to make an informed choice in the type of care they receive.
 - WAFP believes "naturopathic practitioner" and "naturopathic health care" are better terms for clearly distinguishing their practice from physicians'.

WAFP respectfully requests legislators reject Senate Bill 532 until our concerns are remedied. We do not oppose a regulatory and licensure structure for naturopathic practitioners, but we believe the legislature can do so without risking safety, confusing patients, and providing unprecedented power to a professional board. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Hoven at (414-305-2011).

Sept 29, 2021

1. Madame Speaker, Members of the Senate.

Thank Senator Bernier as well as Senator Felzkowski, Taylor and Ringhand for being cosponsors of the bill. My name is Mark Deill and I live in Madison, Wisconsin.

This is my story and why I urge you to support licensure for Naturopathic Doctors

2. I sought a ND because I had been diagnosed with bladder cancer for the second time. I sought out a ND because the only option the urologist offered was another surgery and he couldn't tell me why I had reoccurring tumors appearing in my bladder.

3. I sought out an ND that approached my issue by getting to the root of why I was getting tumors. The ND conducted many lab tests, including one only that had to be sent to Greece, the only place where it is done. These tests took my unique body chemistry and created a very precise medical regimen. My bladder cancer is now gone completely. Yet, my urologist at UW Clinics has not shown any curiosity towards what treatment I had undergone to result in the disappearance of a tumor.

4. My NDs listened to my unique situation, created a comprehensive plan, and constantly monitored my progress while adjusted accordingly. The ND's understanding of body function and body chemistry was so impressive it inspired me to be disciplined and strictly adhering to the gameplay we both agreed to.

5. The lack of ND licensure had made it difficult to get my other practitioners to share information and to get labs and treatments paid for by insurance. These labs and treatments have depleted my savings quite a bit despite having an employer provided insurance plan.

6. Licensing Naturopathic Doctors increases access to medical options that have proven to be effective. Not everyone has success with the treatments offered by mainstream medicine providers and licensing ND's gives the public greater choice in their health care. Personally, it will assure that I have access to the ND's that have saved my life.

7. I urge you to support this bill to license my Naturopathic Doctor as a primary care provider.

Mark Deill

Madison, WI



TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing & Forestry

FROM: **Kenneth B. Simons, MD**
Executive Director and Designated Institutional Official, MCWAH, Inc.
Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Roy L. Silverstein, MD
The Linda and John Mellowes Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine

Joseph W. Gravel Jr., MD, FAAFP
Professor & Chair, Department of Family & Community Medicine

David A. Margolis, MD
Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Pediatrics

DATE: September 29, 2021

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 532, Related to the Regulation and Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) appreciates the intent and advocacy of bill authors Senator Kathy Bernier and Representative Jessie Rodriguez to advance legislation aimed at improving healthcare access in Wisconsin. Having said that, MCW opposes Senate Bill 532, related to the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, and respectfully requests your consideration in opposing the legislation as well.

To put MCW's opposition in context, MCW has been, and continues to be, a strong supporter of providing the opportunity for all healthcare providers to be appropriately licensed and practice at the top of their scope in Wisconsin. Recent examples include MCW's active support for:

- Licensure legislation for Certified Genetic Counselors (SB 259 / AB 255)
- Licensure legislation for Psychologists (2021 Wisconsin Act 22)
- Licensure for Physician Assistants (2021 Wisconsin Act 23)
- MCW also recently opened MCW's School of Pharmacy, which is leveraging Wisconsin's recent law change to allow pharmacists to practice at a high level of collaboration with physicians.

Although MCW strongly supports providers practicing at the top of their scope, MCW has opposed, and will continue to oppose, legislation related to scope of practice expansions that are not in the best long-term interests of patients.

Among other issues, SB 532 will create confusion within the public regarding what constitutes primary health care. Defining naturopathic practice as "a system of primary health care for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions, injury, and disease," etc., as well as the creation of

a Naturopathic Examining Board with broad scope of practice authority, ultimately grants naturopathic practitioners with highly similar clinical scope of practice as many primary care physicians. Additionally, the legislation provides prescription authority to naturopathic practitioners. MCW does not believe these provisions are in the best interest of patient safety or transparency.

The legislation also associates numerous terms to naturopathic practitioners which are traditionally reserved for the practice of medicine carried out by a physician, including the terms "medicine," "medical doctor," and "physician." The wide use of each of these terms within the bill will create the perception for patients that the training and skills of naturopathic practitioners will be on par with physicians. From a scope of practice perspective, the bill does grant similar scope authority for naturopathic practitioners versus primary care physicians, without simultaneously requiring the same level of educational and clinical training requirements.

To be clear, MCW does not oppose the licensure, or the creation of an examining board, for naturopathic practitioners. In contrast, MCW is primarily opposed to the broad scope of practice within the legislation (including, but not limited to, prescription authority), the ability of the proposed examining board to set the course for additional scope of practice expansions into the future, and the use of terminology which will create confusion for the public.

Thank you again for your consideration. MCW respectfully requests your opposition to this legislation. Please feel free to contact Nathan Berken, Director of Government Relations, at 414.955.8217, or nberken@mcw.edu, if you have any questions or would like additional information.

September 29, 2021

Re: Support for SB 532 to license Naturopathic doctors

To the committee:

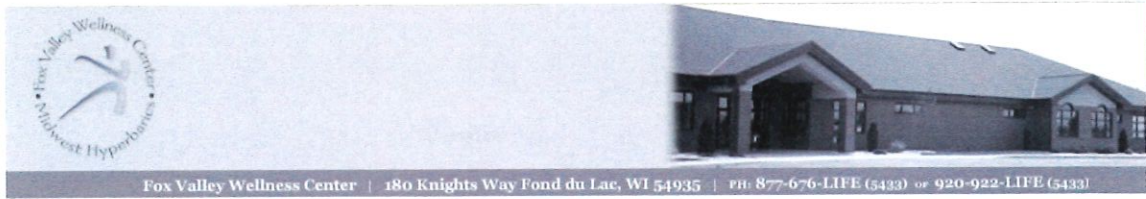
My name is Dr. Alaina Gates-Sterk. I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and licensed massage therapist, living in Kenosha County and practicing in Lake Geneva, WI. I have practiced for approximately 6 years, but I work exclusively with current my naturopathic clients via tele-consults at this time. I recently moved to the village of Bristol from Appleton, so my client base is a bit far for in-person visits. I also practice massage therapy at Lake Geneva Chiropractic and am working toward offering in-person naturopathic consults at that location.

I received my Doctorate of Naturopathic Medicine from National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) in Lombard, IL. NUHS is one of the seven schools accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) in North America. While at NUHS, I studied the basic sciences--biochemistry, human anatomy, physiology, and the like, clinical sciences--such as pharmacology, and specialties such as women's health, geriatrics, and environmental health, in addition to nutrition, botanical medicine, physical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, and a bit of traditional Chinese medicine. I also worked with patients under the supervision of Naturopathic physicians for over a year in the on-campus clinic during my time at NUHS. I was trained to be a primary care provider, having a broad knowledge of the standards of care and being able to understand when I need to refer patients with issues or conditions that might lie outside of my abilities. Students who complete their naturopathic education at an accredited institution are eligible to sit for boards and apply for licensure or registration in states that regulate Naturopathic medicine. I passed my boards in 2014 and hold registration as a Naturopathic Doctor in Minnesota.

I usually work with clients who struggle with digestion and mental health issues, and a few that have been diagnosed with cancer by their medical doctor. Most clients are looking for safe, gentle, yet effective ways to support their bodies, whatever the issue is with which they present. My clients would come to Appleton to be seen from as far as the Waupaca and Green Bay areas. If Wisconsin regulates naturopathic medicine, it will mean I could practice in accordance with my training; being able to order and interpret lab tests, prescribe pharmaceuticals when indicated, and provide my clients (who I could then call patients) with more options when it comes to their medical care. Also, if licensure is granted in this state, Wisconsin will be joining the other 23 states in the US that already license Naturopathic Doctors. There are a couple different titles that Naturopathic practitioners use in regulated states; Naturopathic Doctor (ND) or Naturopathic Medical Doctor (NMD). These titles help distinguish licensable Naturopathic practitioners from traditional naturopaths.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Alaina Gates-Sterk, ND, LMT
alaina.s.gates@gmail.com
(920) 636-3248



September 29, 2021

re: Support for Senate Bill 532

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support of Naturopathic Physicians in the state of Wisconsin for licensure. I have worked with Dr. Robert Coleman, who did his medical school at Bastyr University in Washington state, and I found him to be an extremely intelligent, thoroughly prepared and extremely competent physician that left this practice due to licensure issues. I strongly support naturopathic physicians getting licensed in the state of WI.

Any questions to this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven G. Meress, MD, FACP, ABHM

ND Bill SB532 9/29/2021 Angela Rahm, ND

I would like to first Thank Senator Bernier and Rep Rodriguez for your support and efforts to obtain licensure for NDs in WI.

Thank you Senator Felzkowski for supporting the natural health community for all you have done and put into this bill.

I would like to also make sure to thank all the Senators who have supported the natural healthcare providers in WI. Thank you for taking the time to listen to us over the past few months.

Sen. Bernier and Rep. Rodriguez, thank you for supporting us in the natural health industry; please listen to my testimony and the testimony of all the supporters and clients who have rearranged their schedules, taken off of work and left their comfort zone to be here today.

My name is Angela Rahm and I am a Naturopathic Doctor.

In 2012 I received my degree from Trinity, School of Natural Health which entailed a base of 1100 hours of study. In addition- in 2011 I graduated from the Loomis Institute of Enzyme Nutrition as a Digestive Health Specialist, 2011 I graduated from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition, and in 2018 I sat for my boards to become a Nationally Board-Certified Naturopathic Doctor through the ANMBC (The American Naturopathic Medical Certification Board).

I have a plethora of continuing education so I will just list a few.

Mastering Brain Chemistry, Neuroendocrine Immunology, Mastering the Thyroid, Functional Endocrinology and Functional Blood Analysis of which these trainings were by Dr. Kharazian a Harvard professor and one of the leaders in Functional Medicine movement in North America.

I have also completed a diagnostic blood analysis seminar, Integrative Blood Chemistry, Clinical Nutritional therapies and Drugs vs Natural therapies course.

I also have been trained under a functional chiropractor for the last 8 months on a deeper study of analyzing blood panels, restoring hormones, gut and liver health for safe and long-lasting weight loss and overall well-being.

While in school and as a post-graduate, I completed a 1-year internship with Dr. Jim Walters, a Naturopathic Doctor from Mount Horeb WI. This entails over 1000 hours of clinical experience.

To maintain Board Certified status I must complete a minimum of 20 CEU's each year, and usually exceed that. For 6 years I owned/operated a 3100sq' healing center in Madison providing many health and wellness services, modalities and classes to more than 3,000 clients and health professionals.

I currently co-own 3 health and weight loss centers and have 4 employees in WI.

I have over 275K invested in specialized equipment.

This Bill SB532 completely fences me out of my earned designation as an Naturopathic Doctor. I have everything invested in my business and I would be forced to close and I would lose everything!

My experience and dedication in my practice for almost 10 years qualifies me to call myself an Naturopathic Doctor.

My back story,

My son at age 11 was diagnosed with Lyme disease and then at age 16 it had debilitated him. EVERY DAY HE WANTED TO JUST DIE FROM THE PAIN!!! We had little hope and then we met Dr. Jim Walters. Within 2 weeks my son began to turn around.

This is important because Dr. Walters graduated from Trinity, School of Natural Health, the school I attended and graduated from.

He encouraged me to attend Trinity. He saw something special in me and believed in my dedication to helping people! He made an exception to never taking on an intern and asked me to intern at his office. What an honor! I interned for over a year. Subsequently, years later, he came to me as a client at my healing center for neuro feedback! If this bill would have been passed when Dr. Walter's was alive and practicing, he would have been fenced out! I simply can't imagine where my son or the THOUSANDS of people who traveled from all around the world to see Dr. Walters would be today.

In closing

Our only request is to be included in the Naturopathic bill. Though I have no intention to ever practicing drug therapy I am requesting that you amend SB 532 to grandfather in all of the Naturopathic Doctors currently practicing in the state Wi.

Again, I appreciate you allowing me to speak today.

Thank you.

Angela Rahm

From: rjkinvestments@aol.com
To: Sen.Roys@legis.wisconsin.gov
Sent: 9/26/2021 3:08:02 PM Central Standard Time
Subject: ND Bill SB532

Dear Senator Kelda

my name is Larry Klein I live in Fitch burg Wisconsin I am writing to you to respectfully ask you to oppose
SB 532 the Naturopathic Bill

This Bill is written for only 20 NDs when there are over 130 that are in the State of WI. It discriminates over 100 of these NDs just because they didn't attend a certain college

my ND Doctor that will be effected by this should it pass is DR ANGELA RAHM Dr Rahm has been a god send to me as I have struggled with my health issues. She has provided me with support and direction that I was not able to receive in the traditional medical system

Dr Ram is supportive knowledgeable and gave me hope when I was desperate for a doctor that could help me Please do not pass this bill, it will take away her ability to practice and I will lose the very important support I need in dealing with my health issues

I would be more than happy to explain further how and why Dr Rahm is making a difference in my journey to get my health back my phone number is 608 278 1321

Thank you for reading my letter and concerns and please help us and oppose the SB 532 Bill

Respectfully
Larry Klein

Bonnie Schetski

M

Angie is magnificent and her energy is contagious.

I first met Angie when I was diagnosed with metastatic stage 4 kidney cancer, June 2017. Angie was the first provider I met that gave me hope and encouraged me to heal my body of the cancer. She provided me with an overwhelming amount of information which was good because that meant I had options. I started on supplements specifically designed to support my body where nutrients was lacking. After two weeks of being on the supplements and protein shake I felt the best I had since I was in my early 20's. (I'm in my late 30's now.) While working with Angie I was able to dramatically slow down the growth rate of my cancer and improve my energy levels which was the keystone to the beginning of my treatment/remission.

Angie was a blessing to me as she supported and guided me through this very traumatic time in my life. I am grateful to her and the staff at Ideal Self.

Bonnie S.



To: Members of the Senate Insurance, Licensing and Forestry Committee
From: Dr. Brian Wussow, Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin
Date: Sept 29, 2021
Re: Opposition to SB 532 relating to Naturopathic licensure

Thank you Senator Felzkowski and members of this committee for allowing me to testify today on SB 532.

I am Dr. Brian Wussow from Middleton, Wisconsin. As the Vice president of the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin (CSW), I am representing our statewide association of chiropractors, chiropractic technicians and chiropractic radiological technicians.

The most difficult part of my testimony today is that our association fully supports the efforts of Senator Bernier and Representative Rodriguez for licensure for naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin. We applaud your many efforts to support the natural healthcare provider community.

We unfortunately need to testify in opposition to this specific legislation until two issues are hopefully modified through the amendment process.

The two issues are as follows:

1. The language in SB 532 related to ND scope of practice and associated with spinal manipulation does not contain the agreed upon language that was fairly negotiated between the CSW and WNDA.
2. The language related to grandfathering of currently practicing NDs unfairly fences out approximately 1/3 of the NDs in the state.

Factor 1: Scope of practice language

We are hopeful that this issue was the result of an oversight and can be resolved through an amendment. I have included in my testimony a document containing a written communication from the WNDA to the CSW dated 3/19/21. This communication contained the final draft of the language negotiated between our two associations related to scope of practice and spinal manipulations.

Our association reviewed the 3/19/21 document and sent confirmation to the WNDA of our approval of this specific language to be included in the final bill.

You can imagine our concern when SB 532 was released and the extremely important language that we had specifically discussed with the WNDA for inclusion into the bill was unfortunately left out of the final draft. The language found in blue and yellow highlights is missing in the final draft.

We are uncertain if the removal was an oversight, but we are hopeful that Senator Bernier and Rep Rodriguez would be willing to draft an amendment to include the previously agreed upon scope of practice language.

~ Empowering Chiropractors to Vitalize Wisconsin ~

Factor 2: Fencing out of currently practicing NDs

The CSW was founded by its initial members primarily to oppose a “fencing out” mechanism created by a professional chiropractic trade association. That specific fencing out mechanism was a new “Wisconsin only” chiropractic licensing exam. It was openly known in our profession that the purpose of the exam was to fence out new chiropractors from being able to come to Wisconsin to practice. The effort was successful as the initial failure rate of the exam was as close to 100% as you can get. The CSW used our resources to remove the exam allowing the fence to be removed and all new chiropractors the opportunity to practice in Wisconsin. The chiropractic profession and citizens of Wisconsin benefited from this action.

I am providing this extremely brief review of the past fencing out effort by a professional association to provide the foundation for the second issue associated with our opposition to the current ND legislation.

Simply, the CSW has many members who work with NDs that will be fenced out with the current language. We are aware of good faith attempts by the affected NDs who would be fenced out by this legislation to negotiate with the WNDA to create language that would both protect the public and be inclusive of all currently practicing NDs. Instead of being inclusive, it is our understanding that the WNDA declined their request and recommended to the bills authors grandfathering language that would specifically exclude all but one chosen ND in the state.

The CSW encourages the WNDA to modify its position on this specific issue. We also sincerely request to the bills authors to reconsider the current grandfathering language and draft an amendment to allow all currently practicing NDs to be included in the ND licensure legislation.

Summary:

1. The CSW supports the licensure of **all** NDs and believe that there is a very obtainable pathway to licensure if the WNDA simply modifies its current position.
2. The CSW is requesting two simple amendments to the current legislation.
 - a. Modify the scope of practice clause involving chiropractic and spinal manipulation to include the previously agreed upon language.
 - b. Modify the grandfathering language to include **ALL** of the currently practicing NDs for licensure.

3/19/2021

This language has been accepted by the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association to allay the concerns expressed by chiropractors in both professional chiropractic organizations in Wisconsin. To add to our ND licensing bill 2019 SB 866: Definition of naturopathic physical medicine:

- includes manually administering mechanical treatment of body structures or tissues for the purpose of restoring normal physiological function to the body by normalizing and balancing the musculoskeletal system of the body, such as massage, stretching, resistance, or joint play examination;
- **excludes manipulation or adjustment of the extremity joints of the human body beyond the elastic barrier, including small amplitude movement at or beyond the end range of normal joint motion or grade II, III, IV and V Manipulation.**
- **excludes spinal manipulation;**
- excludes the act of "manipulation" or "adjustment" as used in Wisconsin Chiropractic Practices Act 446.

Actual language placed in the bill did not match the language negotiated and "accepted by the WNDA

(7) (a) "Naturopathic physical medicine" includes, except as provided in par. 13(b), manually administering mechanical treatment of body structures or tissues for 14the purpose of restoring normal physiological function to the body by normalizing 15and balancing the musculoskeletal system of the body, such as massage, stretching, 16resistance, or joint play examination.

17(b) "Naturopathic physical medicine" does not include the employment or 18application of **chiropractic** adjustments and the principles or techniques of 19**chiropractic** science as described in s. 446.01 (2) (b)

Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

- Senator Felzkowski (Chair)
- Senator Stafsholt (Vice-Chair)
- Senator Jagler
- Senator L. Taylor
- Senator Ringhand

Thank you Senator Bernier and Rep Rodriguez for your support and efforts to obtain licensure for NDs.

Senator Felzkowski thank you for supporting the natural health community and all the time and energy you have put into this bill.

I would like to thank all the Senators who have supported the natural healthcare providers in the state. Thank you for taking the time to listen to us over the past few months.

Sen. Bernier and Rep. Rodriguez, thank you for supporting us in the natural health industry; please listen to my testimony and the testimony of all the supporters and clients who have rearranged their schedule to be here today.

My testimony will provide information that clearly shows my education and training qualifies me as a Naturopathic Doctor who has provided years of dedicated and safe service to my patients and I deserve to be included in this legislation. The fencing you out appears to go against everything you have been trying to do with this legislation.

My name is Debra Muth. I truly love my work and have continued my quest for knowledge to best serve my patients with degrees/honors that include; Naturopathic Doctor, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, Advanced Registered Nurse Prescriber, Registered Nurse Certified, Board Certified Antiaging Regenerative Health Care Practitioner. Board Certified American College for Advancement in Medicine (ACAM). I hold a Bachelors in Nursing from Chamberlain University, a Masters in Herbal Medicine, and a Masters in Natural Health.

As a teacher, practitioner, author in the field of Integrative Medicine, and Founder of Serenity Health Care Center, I have treated and served 10,000 chronically ill clients during my career. My educational hours from my degrees equal 8,670 not including the continuing education credits I have received over the past 20 years. I have over 77,000 clinical practice hours.

I have taught continuing education courses to thousands of NDs, NPs, MDs, DOs, and chiropractors. I served as Faculty for Standard Process's Naturopathic Residency program and provided a residency education and a clinical opportunity for Naturopaths

who are now part of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association (WNDA), my clinic has been a training facility for medical doctors, nurse practitioners, medical assistants and chiropractors for the past 20 years. In other words, I've supervised the residency of doctors that are now part of this organization promoting this bill which forces me out.

I have owned 2 medical clinics in this state over the past 20 years and currently employ 14 people in my existing practice, including a medical doctor, 3 nurse practitioners, nurses, and various support staff.

I attended Clayton College, which was accredited by the American Naturopathic Medical Accreditation Board (ANMAB). The school closed in July of 2010. I chose this traditional naturopathic college because I was a nurse practitioner trained in allopathic medicine. I was interested in gaining alternative or more commonly recognized today as integrative medical training. I was interested in learning the skills of a drugless practice. The educational program that I attended provided knowledge in (non-pharmaceutical and non-surgical) treatment modalities to encourage and facilitate the body's healing of itself. Naturopathic practices include healing systems or physical, nutritional, or natural agent regimens. Naturopathic care treatments of botanical medicine/herbology, conventional nutritional counseling, homeopathy, mind/body treatments, and hydrotherapy.

Because of the educational path that I chose 25 years ago, I will now be fenced out of practice if this bill is approved in its current state. My business, employees, and patients will suffer as a result of this bill.

I am here to oppose Senate Bill (SB 532) in its existing state. I take issue with several points in the language of this bill.

1. Limiting all naturopathic therapies to only those licensed as a Naturopathic Doctor will restrict any medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner, nurse, or holistic health practitioner from performing the services listed in this bill.
2. The definition of Naturopathic medicine is broad and many of us holding other medical licenses already perform and employ these techniques in our practices. This may lead practitioners to believe that they are claiming to be naturopathic doctors and may prevent them from performing these services.
3. I have issues with the language regarding the use and title of "ND" Naturopathic Doctor or Naturopathic Health Care. Having been in the field of medicine for 20 years this is censorship on any Integrative, Natural, or Holistic Practitioner in the state.
4. Lastly, I oppose the fencing out of highly trained Naturopathic Doctors who have been in practice for many years. Those of us here today have made numerous attempts to negotiate the grandfathering language with the WNDA to include existing Naturopathic Doctors and those Doctors who are currently in a

program, however, we have been told there is no concession on grandfathering.

Members of the WNDA have expressed to us that Naturopathic Doctor is just a title and it doesn't mean anything. I will tell you that is incorrect. It does mean something to all of us who attended an accredited program, who practice naturopathic modalities on a daily basis, and live the lifestyle of natural health. The title Naturopathic Doctor matters to our patients/clients it tells the story of who we are and what we believe.

In closing:

Our only request is to be included in the Naturopathic bill. I am requesting that you amend SB 532 to grandfather all of the Naturopathic Doctors practicing in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

7124 88th Avenue
Kenosha WI 53142
September 27, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

Dear Dr. Muth,

I have been your patient for more than 20 years. Your caring commitment to me has been proven time and time again. You are compassionate, understanding and truly listen to your patients. You always work with me to implement the best treatment and outcome possible for my situation. Your knowledge and research has helped return me to wellness on many occasions.

Your dedication, years of experience and growing practice are all indications that you have been more than successful in treating patients in the manner in which they choose. To deny you the freedom to practice is to also deny me the freedom to choose how I wish to pursue my health care.

I support you in being able to remain in practice and look forward to hearing of a positive outcome.

Longtime Grateful Patient
Mary Garnett-Hayes

To whom it may concern,

I am a Nurse Practitioner and a Naturopathic Medicine patient. I choose to see a ND-and pay out of pocket to do so- because I value both holistic medicine and healthcare choice.

I have been a patient of Dr. Debra Muth for quite a few years. Dr Muth's care has been exemplary and has made a huge difference in my health and quality of life. I attribute my ability to continue working and participate in normal day to day activities through a serious chronic illness to her treatment.

As a health care provider colleague, Dr Muth contributes to the collegiality and professional body of knowledge for many healthcare practitioners. She has mentored NPs, NDs and allopathic physicians alike. Her significant contribution to professional practice and the health and well being of people all across the country is undeniable.

I ask that you please vote NO on SB 532. Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the health and function of so many who rely upon the care and knowledge of NDs like Dr Muth.

As in all things healthcare: Patient choice should always be the most important consideration in healthcare policy.

Sincerely

Sharon O'Neill, RN, MSN, FNP-C, APNP
Waukesha, WI

September 28, 2021

Senator Bernier
Representative Rodriguez
S-Insurance, Licensing and Forestry

As well as my senators:
Senator Julian Bradley
Representative Ken Skowronski

Re: to Bill SB532
Relating to: the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, creating a naturopathic medicine examining board, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

To the Wisconsin State Senate & State Senate committee S-Insurance, Licensing and Forestry,

My name is Katherine Misch from Greenfield, WI. Please vote against bill SB532. Naturopath patients like myself choose to seek out this type of health care with their own out-of-pocket health care dollars. The naturopath I see, Debra Muth, has been instrumental in improving the quality of my life and health unlike any other licensed medical practitioner I have seen. Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the lives of so many who rely upon the knowledge of NDs.

Naturopaths are not currently licensed in the state of WI. This has given them the ability to offer naturopathic services without being at risk to lose our license. The state has been comfortable with this arrangement for 20 years. But recently, the WNDA (Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctor Associations) has decided to present a bill to the state for licensing.

There are only about 120 Naturopaths in the state currently. There are 20 that are pursuing licensing. Normally, they wouldn't care about this, but the bill is fencing out certain trained Naturopaths because they didn't attend a particular school and being presented as unsafe. My Doctor Debra Muth is one of these naturopaths that will not be allowed to be licensed and worse yet... she will no longer be able to use the title Naturopathic doctor, ND, or Naturopath. This bill will not only restrict her from using a title it will restrict her and other natural and holistic practitioners from practicing, recommending supplements, herbs and natural modalities.

These Doctors who you are looking to rule out of the ability to practice have worked very hard to complete their Ph.D. and provide high-quality care to their patients, myself being one. I know she has worked hard to train other providers over the past 20 years, many of them are the naturopaths in this group. I know she cares about me and I know she cares about not being able to deliver the type of medicine that I know she believes in with her entire heart and why I sought her out in addition to my regular MDs.

As I see it Bill SB532 would not benefit anyone and would discredit those who worked hard to become qualified to assist those who seek alternative health care.

Have any of you ever suffered a major health crisis - NOT CANCER??

Do you know what it is like to go through the medical system?

Katherine Misch Regarding Bill SB532

Let me paint you a little picture and share with you why NDs are sooo important to our country and our State.

More than 6 years ago I started to become extremely sick. Put this in perspective, I was a college basketball player. I have helped coach numerous varsity teams over the previous years. I have always been fairly active. Suddenly I could barely make it to the bathroom at work without almost passing out.

Ok, now back to when things started to go wrong. I went to my primary doc who is a fantastic doctor and man. But after running some basic tests he was not sure what was wrong with me, but knew something was not right. There started the next many months of being passed from one specialist doctor to another, many confirming I was very sick, my blood work and many other diagnostic testing showed I was not well. The only problem was they had no clue what was wrong.

Insert cancer patient here... I excluded this at the beginning because in this country when you have cancer there are numerous resources for you! Foundations and dedicated hospitals. They even provide you with a social worker to help guide you through the process and how your life is going to change. This is not the case for the chronically ill, or undiagnosed ill patient.

Back to me though that was not the case. I was being sent from one specialist to another with no actual answers. No help. These Doctors were not communicating with each other any more than the notes they put in your chart. Many times docs would read that and or not read it and assume things before they got into the room. One doctor even came in one time proclaiming a diagnosis (not correct and out of his field) and refused to treat me or run the test he should have. The course of doctors I saw spanned from Aurora to Froedert to UW Madison to Mayo Clinic to Cancer Treatment Centers to UCLA to Cleveland Clinic in looking for answers. I saw doctors in fields from Rheumatology, Neurology, Oncology, Infectious disease, Genetics, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Obstetrician/gynecologists, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and more.

Many doctors ruled me as severely ill, and getting worse but didn't know what to do. Mayo Clinic Infectious Disease retested me for lyme and it came back positive but they said they do not do treatment for it and suggested that treatment for it doesn't work and wouldn't help even if they did do it.

Then came Doctor Muth and her Team! I have been working with them for more than 6 years now. Without their help I can firmly say I would not be standing here today. I'm not sure if I would be alive but if I was still alive I would not be in the condition I am in now. This is where the Naturopathic way excels.

First off they listened and cared! I was not just another patient in the cue of patients for the day they were trying to get through.

I still remember my first visit with Dr. Muth clearly (that's saying a lot with how bad my brain was at the time) Not only did she and her colleague sit and listen to my whole story and what was all wrong. (the list of symptoms was ridiculous at the time) but they reassured me they were there

to help and they would do everything they could to not only pinpoint what was wrong but also guide me back to health and being able to function again as a person.

Mind you this is a major change. Naturopathic medicine works not only on the diagnosis (something that even when done right in the traditional medical field lacks follow through), but they work to then heal you and that is not with a course of medicine you will be on no doubt for the rest of your life. They are working not only to treat you but to help bring you back to health and wellness.

She was open and honest with me; she let me know I was (at that time) one of the sickest patients she had seen. She let me know healing would take time and effort on my part and theirs. She was clear about the expectations that this was not going to be fixed in one small session of antibiotics or the like. But it was going to take years! She was right but her honesty helped give me hope on the bad days that my body was doing the work and I had to give it time.

I could go on for pages about the numerous appointments with her and her team. But I will spare you for now. What I will say is it didn't end with what they could do. I know this bill is about having ND have the ability to read x ray, mri and other things. While that's great if some can do that there are others like Dr. Muth who have the ability to set ego aside and when they know something needs someone else's expertise they are willing to work with you to help find a specialist who will work with them to find out what else is going wrong with you.

For instance, in my case Dr. Muth knew yes I had lyme (heck I tested positive at Mayo for it) but she also knew that there was something else seriously going wrong. She suggested we look into genetic testing. She helped me find where to go. Once I found out there was an underlying genetic issue her office helped me find a specialist to go to who was helpful. Knowing that if we worked to help get that issue under control it could drastically impact my overall healing and how fast I might start to recover from lyme.

The geneticist at UW Madison suggested I couldn't have Familial Mediterranean Fever (fMf) the disease she and I thought I had. He didn't believe my grandparents came from where I said Armenia. My great aunt had previously been diagnosed with this disease by Johns Hopkins but at the time we didn't know it was genetic so had never thought to get tested. Turns out again the MD was wrong and I do have the disease.

Problem was after the diagnosis though there was no follow through by the team at UW. They did NOT help me find a specialist for the disease. For this I leaned on the support and help of Dr. Muth and her Team.

After this diagnosis her team helped me find a Specialist at UCLA who then partnered with a MD here in Wisconsin who now oversees my fMf treatment. He knows of my treatments and all the work I am doing Dr. Muth and her team, he supports this natural healing alongside the medicine I am on for fMf. He works with her and is willing to do what it takes for my health and wellbeing. Like Dr. Muth thought treating this underlying condition would help my healing and it did tremendously.

As I said earlier I was having severe cognitive difficulties along with uncontrollable migraines and seizure-like symptoms. Again she knew there was more to my symptoms than just what she knew to treat and there again she used her skills and her knowledge and training to help guide me in the correct direction to help me find neurological help through the Amen Clinic. A specialty brain clinic who was able to run further tests and help to coordinate treatment and work with Dr. Muth and her team on how to help me HEAL. Both from the Lyme disease that was affecting my brain and from the previous brain injuries I had from too many concussions as a kid playing sports.

If you were in my shoes wouldn't you want a doctor like this? Not one who says they know everything and will take care of it themselves but one who has been training and will put aside their ego and work with others? Don't you think more of our medical system should look like that.

Don't you think more of our medical system should use techniques outside of prescription medication to help heal the body? Natural ways of detoxing, like footbaths, saunas, certain supplements like charcoal and guide you how to use these things. Don't you think especially these days it's a good thing to find someone who will help build immunity, through things like food, vitamins, exercise when appropriate and more? Don't you think it's a blessing to have people in this country that we as the patients have the ability to choose to see that are willing and care for you like family. People who not only want to figure out what is the underlying issue that is wrong but then how to heal you as a person. People who will encourage things like psychological care, mind and body healing.

If it was you in my shoes or if it was one of your family members who was suffering greatly would you want someone to be in their corner fighting for them. Ready to do whatever it takes to get the answers to be able to help them heal? Wouldn't you want the choice to find the best care for yourself or a family member? Someone who looks at things from a different perspective? Someone willing to work outside the rules of Big Pharma. Using methods of healing that have been around for thousands of years?

I know that was the right choice for me and I would do it all over again!!

Dr. Muth and the team at Serenity health care and the other 100 or so Naturopaths in this state do that for thousands of patients each year! They go far above and beyond wanting to make sure they not only treat what is ailing you but also treat all of you and make sure they work towards healing you!

Lastly, there are many other courses of action you could take besides this bill. Have they been presented yet? Have you thought of alternatives to this?

First and one that seems the most obvious especially at a time like now when there is a healthcare worker shortage, would be to grandfather these Medical Professionals into the system. I can understand if going forward you want to move in a new direction but it would be a great loss to the state and the country at this crucial time if you were to lose such seasoned professionals as they would no longer have the ability to practice in the state.

A secondary option, that I would hope would allow the doors of these practitioners to stay open, would be to allow these professionals the ability to be grandfathered in but to continue their education. Something I know they already do on a regular basis. But a reasonable amount of continued education. Something I think all doctors should be allowed to do on a regular basis to catch up on some of the latest medical advances and discoveries.

A third option would be to recommend that the 20 or so doctors that are requesting this actually go back to medical school and get the MD instead of affecting the 100+ that are doing so much good in the state. Why is it then when a few people want something it should affect the many. Isn't what they are requesting already in existence if they went and became Medical Doctors? That is what they want essentially so why don't those people go back to school to finish those degrees? Why is it happening the other way around?

If these were nurse practitioners asking for the ability to do more, what would you tell them? They have a license, they have medical training but if they wanted to be a Medical Doctor wouldn't you tell them to go back to school. Is this not a similar situation?

What if this were in other fields that require the proper schooling and licensing would the person who isn't quite qualified but wants more should they change the rules for them also. That is why we have boards like this to stop those who really should go back and get the proper training from getting around the system.

In this case if these Naturopathic doctors the 20 or so who want to do more want that ability why are they not just being told to go back to school?

I'm sure there might be other options but if there is nothing that can be agreed upon I as a citizen of this state, one who you work for request that you deny this bill and allow these amazing men and women to continue doing what they are good at!!

Please respect the NDs and their patients. Please vote NO on Bill SB532.

Sincerely,

Katherine Misch
4704 W. Maple Leaf Cir
Greenfield, WI 53220
414-795-9503

Dear Senator Jagler,

I am writing about Senate Bill 532 that would affect the ability of my doctor to practice as ND. My name is Kimberly Gartner and I am 56 years old and live in Johnson Creek. I have suffered a plethora of symptoms that were a mystery to many MD's and about 8 years ago it surfaced as an autoimmune disorder. I sought help from MD's; however, the medicines and time they took with me was not helping me get better but worse. My quality of life was deteriorating. I was contemplating having to give up my job as an educator because each day I was extremely fatigued, dizzy, and in pain.

A friend shared with me the name of Dr. Deb Muth and the work she was doing. I have been seeing her for at least 6 years with great results. She was the first provider to look at my history of growing up in Baraboo, WI with contaminated well water. She worked to help detoxify my body and has treated my thyroid through natural supplements. My gynecologist and family practice doctor have been supportive of her protocols and pleased with my progress. I was able to run again and competed in 5k's. Today I coach a grade school cross country team.

For me to lose Dr. Deb would be detrimental since my quality of life has grossly improved after many years of pain and suffering. For many years other MD's had misdiagnosed the autoimmune disease and under Dr. Deb's protocol the diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis is not on my chart. I have Grave's Disease and it has been regulated under her protocols. I don't not have to take unnecessary medication and I am able to continue to teach. She is very educated and keeps up to date on current information. I would hate to see her lose the ability to treat me and other patients who may lose their quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gartner

Shut down the ND Bill

Phyllis Naumann <psnaumann@charter.net>

Tue 9/28/2021 9:20 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

7185 Shady Lane Rd
West Bend, WI 53090
September 28, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

Dear Dr. Muth,

I want to thank you so much for all the help you have given me in the past 20 plus years. You have been able to find ways to help me with many issues that I have had to deal with and I feel you were able to advice and treat me with the help that I needed. You have proven to be extremely knowledgeable, caring and committed to guide me in the best possible health plan for me. I feel I have overcome many issues that would have otherwise gone uncared for and thus would have prevented me from having the healthier lifestyle that I now live.

Your dedication, years of experience and your growing practice are all indications that you have been more than successful in treating patients in the manner in which they choose. I feel you should be given the right to continue your practice so that you can continue to help me and others who are in desperate need of your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Naumann

September 28, 2021

Christine Castillo
403 Bayberry
Oswego, IL 60543

To whom it may concern,

Please vote against Bill SB532. Naturopath patients like myself choose to seek out this type of health care with their own out-of-pocket health care dollars. The naturopath I see, Debra Muth (Serenity Health Care, 1708 Paramount Court, Waukesha, WI 53186) has been instrumental in improving the quality of my health and therefore my life. She has been able to help me far beyond what traditional MDs could do for me. Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the lives of so many who rely upon the knowledge of NDs.

Bill SB532 would not benefit anyone and would discredit those who worked hard to become qualified to assist those who seek alternative health care. Patient choice should always be the most important consideration in health care decision-making.

Please respect the NDs and their patients. Please vote NO on Bill SB532.

Regards,
Christine Castillo

September 28, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

To whom it may concern,

Please vote against Bill SB532. Naturopath patients like myself choose to seek out this type of health care with my own out-of-pocket health care dollars. The naturopath I see, Debra Muth, has made all the difference in both saving my life and improving the quality of my life and health unlike any other licensed medical practitioner I have seen. Prior to finding Dr. Muth, I saw over 57 other medical professionals, many of them Infectious Disease MDs, Immunologists, Rheumatologists, and Neurologists. Every single doctor, but Dr. Muth failed me. The other doctors lacked the competence to accurately diagnose and treat me, but Dr. Muth is exceedingly competent and qualified to address the most difficult and complex of cases, if you doubt that, please pull my medical records.

Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the lives of so many who rely upon the knowledge of NDs. I have referred countless people to Dr. Muth who have all benefited tremendously from her medical care. I can't imagine a world that doesn't recognize the tremendous value working with Dr. Muth provides. My situation was extremely frightening, and it was unclear if I was going to survive. Dr. Muth took me through a healing journey resulting in my full recovery. I am now able to walk, see, and talk and live a normal life all thanks to Dr. Muth. I have never felt safer than in Dr. Muth's hands and am living proof of her vast competency and compassion.

Bill SB532 would not benefit anyone and would discredit those who worked hard to become qualified to assist those who seek alternative health care. Patient choice should always be the most important consideration in health care decision-making.

Please respect the NDs and their patients. **Please vote NO on Bill SB532.**

Regards,
Amber Chapman

Glenview, IL
Formerly, Middleton, WI
312-933-6925

Testimony Letter

corie makila <coriemakila@gmail.com>

Fri 9/24/2021 9:50 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

To whomever it may concern,

I have been a patient of Debra Muth for years. I travel from Illinois to Wisconsin to see her as she is very knowledgeable with Lyme disease. Good Lyme doctors are hard to find. The only way I can put this is please do your research on Lyme disease before making a decision. Her patients travel to see her as she is great, without her I would be bedridden. She does have vitamins and supplements as an additional way to get the nutrients we are maybe not getting in our regular diet. Unless you have a chronic illness you don't and won't understand. People think if you treat Lyme for a few weeks it goes away. Yes if you have an acute case with a bullseye rash. With long term Lyme it's super hard to diagnose. You can see it in a microscope through special labs, There are testing centers that can find the bacteria as the regular basic Lyme test is horrible. Some people do not know they have been bitten by a tick and are sick for years. Debra Muth will do everything she can to get you back on your feet. It takes a few months to start feeling better. Antibiotics are a lifesaver. I was misdiagnosed with depression, MS, lupus, etc. Dr Gary Oberg was my first doctor to ask me if I was camping because it sounded like Lyme disease. He was correct. I finally got was able to get off my anti depressants after treatment that doctors get giving to me, I was not depressed at all but that was all they do for me. Dr Oberg from Crystal Lake who has written books, super smart man. He said to find a Lyme literate doctor. I found Debra Muth and she's basically saving my life. If people lose her, just keep in mind her patients will have to find a new doctor because they will end up sick again and bedridden. The vitamins combined with supplements and sometimes antibiotics have saved my life. She's helps with people with hormone issues, thyroid issues. She's great. It would be unfortunate to take away a license she worked so hard for.

Corie Makila

Letter

Carla Morrison <carla.r.morrison@gmail.com>

Thu 9/23/2021 4:47 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

To whom it may concern,

I have been going to Dr. Muth for 15 plus years. She has helped my with my thyroid imbalances. She has always listened to me and my symptoms thoroughly. Looking at my blood tests, she has taken the time to compare them and listen to my symptoms and come up with a dosage as to what would be best for my body. As time has gone on and there have been ups and downs with my thyroid she always listens and looks at the blood work and comes up with a plan. Dr. Muth always checks back to make sure the blood levels are good and that I'm feeling good also.

I so very much appreciate the care she gives to me.

Thank you for your time,
Carla Morrison

Senate Bill 532

miken@tds.net <miken@tds.net>

Thu 9/23/2021 8:01 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Re; Senate Bill 532

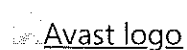
Dear Legislators,

My name is Mike Nickel. I'm the past president of the Wisconsin Lyme Network 501 {c3}, a non-profit dedicated to the support and education of lyme disease patients in the state of Wisconsin. Though I no longer serve on the non-profit and speaking for myself, I've had vast experience with thousands of Wisconsin patients and many practitioners. I also ran the largest online, lyme disease patient support group in Wisconsin. Naturopathic Doctor's have been an invaluable resource for our patient community and continue to be.

I've testified to state legislators previously regarding other legislation pertaining to medical standards/licensing. Tick-borne illness encompasses several different bacterial, viral and fungal infections. It can be extremely difficult to treat and few MD's have the time or resources to study the illness adequately. Tens of thousands of Wisconsinites become infected with lyme, babesia, bartonella and other tick-borne illness on an annual basis. The Naturopathic community provides treatment and excellent results for thousands of patients. The thousands of lyme community patients that rely on Naturopathic treatments would be adamantly opposed to any restriction on ND's that may endanger or alter the care they're so dependent on.

Please feel free to read my statement into the record.

Sincerely,
Mike Nickel
Lomira, WI.



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

Letter

Kathi Sabby <kathisabby@gmail.com>

Thu 9/23/2021 6:35 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

My letter:

My name is Kathi Sabby. I have been a patient of Dr. Deb for over 15 years. I needed to continue my healthcare when my previous ND retired. He hand picked her to replace him.

My continued care consists of monitoring my hormones due to an adrenal gland disorder and chronic fatigue.

In the beginning of being diagnosed I was extremely tired all the time. Through Dr. Deb's care and her knowledge of chronic illnesses, herbs and Bio identical Hormone therapy I have energy to live my life and work.

I trust Dr. Deb for her expertise in my health care.

Thank you Dr. Deb

Kathi Sabby.

Sent from my iPhone

Write-up for Dr. Deb

Karen Johnson <mskarjohn720@gmail.com>

Thu 9/23/2021 6:51 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Jenn,

I would like to help Dr. Muth out with a write-up, but quite frankly, I'm not sure what I would be advocating for. It hasn't been clear to me who is out to take away her license and why they think she is not qualified - whether it is regular MD's, or other ND doctors, or who. If you could provide more clarity, on the issue details, then it would be easier to write up a testimony.

Thanks,

Karen Johnson

Hearing Support Letter for Madison Rally

Mary Hayes <fredmareski@yahoo.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 1:13 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

7124 88th Avenue
Kenosha WI 53142
September 27, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

Dear Dr. Muth,

I have been your patient for more than 20 years. Your caring commitment to me has been proven time and time again. You are compassionate, understanding and truly listen to your patients. You always work with me to implement the best treatment and outcome possible for my situation. Your knowledge and research has helped return me to wellness on many occasions.

Your dedication, years of experience and growing practice are all indications that you have been more than successful in treating patients in the manner in which they choose. To deny you the freedom to practice is to also deny me the freedom to choose how I wish to pursue my health care.

I support you in being able to remain in practice and look forward to hearing of a positive outcome.

Longtime Grateful Patient
Mary Garnett-Hayes

RE: Assembly Bill AB532

Cathy Bolin <cathybolin628@gmail.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 10:37 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

To The Wisconsin State Assembly Members:

I am asking you to vote against bill AB532. If this passes, Naturopaths in Wisconsin will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training.

I have been seeing Dr. Debra Muth for almost 20 years now. She gives patients an alternative option to seek medical advice and care when other medical professions sometimes miss things or have no answers. This right to seek the professionals we choose, should be available to all Wisconsinites. She treats the whole patient and finds the root causes and does not treat just the symptoms. Her care has been invaluable to me for almost 2 decades.

If the State is going to make changes in their licensing, they should at least "grandfather" in the current Naturopaths and those in school to become one. It is not right for our State government to take away the livelihood of these professionals who spent time and money to become the caring providers they have become. Also, it is wrong to take away the option from those of us who choose this type of medical care.

This is about medical freedom and choices. Please vote against bill AB532.

Sincerely,

Greg & Cathy Bolin
103 Stevens Court
North Prairie, WI 53153
262-470-5503
cathybolin628@gmail.com

CC: Senator Chris Kapenga
Representative Cindi Duchow

Senate Bill 532 - Dr Debra Muth ND

Linda Fucik <lkaayf@hotmail.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 9:31 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

I am writing to support Dr Debra Muth continuing her ND status for practicing naturopathics.

My name is Linda Fucik, N6052 Hideaway Lane, Fond du Lac, WI. I have been a patient with Dr Debra Muth since 2017. She have greatly helped my coinfection problem, when previous doctors and naturopaths did not.

Dr Deb is very educated and knowledgeable - very qualified. She also works with other providers and is very knowledgeable about herbs and chronic illnesses.

I need to have Dr Deb keep the ability to use the title she has earned, and need her to have continued access to recommended nutrition. Dr Deb is very safe and is respectful of her clients.

Linda Fucik

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Fwd: Senate bill 532

KK <kristinevrnak@gmail.com>

Fri 9/24/2021 11:47 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

This is what I sent

Kristine Vranak •

Sr. Manager Pricing Compliance

Risk Compliance Division

Corporate Headquarters,

Kohl's Department Stores

N56 W17000 Ridgewood Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

(**Direct Line: 262.703.6319** | Kristine.vranak@kohls.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: KK <kristinevrnak@gmail.com>

Date: September 7, 2021 at 11:56:09 AM CDT

To: Rep.Allen@legis.wisconsin.gov, Sen.Kapenga@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: Senate bill 532

Dear Representative Allen and Senator Kapenga.

I am writing to you today in horror at finding out that there is a bill, 532, that, if approved, will no longer allow my physician of 20 years to practice. I beg you to turn down this bill that could impact 100's of deserving doctors who have been practicing medicine in WI. Naturopathy is one of the only options available that looks holistically at our health. My family focuses highly on our bodies natural health and many times when we have been told to 'take a pill' to reduce symptoms by a regular physician the naturopath doctors have come to our rescue and been able to tell us what was causing our illness and we removed the toxin and our bodies were restored to health. My family does not contribute to overuse of health care and due to high deductibles typically pay for all of our expenses out of pocket. We are not contributing to any depletion of state healthcare funds, we just want and deserve the opportunity to keep our bodies healthy and live a good life. I believe approaches such as this will seed a broader health focused life for our children and their families.

Please please take this into consideration and do not approve this bill. Dr. Debra Muth has my 1000% approval, my life will change drastically if she is unable to serve me as my physician.

Thank you for your consideration for not only myself and my family but for the thousands+ who are unaware of this bill and will be impacted.

Kristine Vranak

The ND Bill

Mydella Palmer <mydella128@gmail.com>

Fri 9/24/2021 3:27 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

I am a patient of Dr. Deb Muth for 2 years. I am appreciative of all the knowledge she has. She researches constantly to be the best Dr. she can be to her patients. She has helped me so much with so many different issues. I have been to regular medical doctors and they were not any help with my issues. They just wanted to give me prescriptions, but it didn't help. Her naturopath knowledge worked.

I don't know what I would do without her. We need people like her to help take care of us. We deserve the best and she is that..

Please keep her in practice as a Doctor.

Sincerely,

Mydella Palmer
Janesville, Wisconsin

ND Legislation

LOIS VLASAK Owner <loisvlasak@centurylink.net>

Mon 9/27/2021 3:39 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the care that I have received from Dr Deb Muth and to support the shutting down of any legislation that would be detrimental to her medical practice.

Hippocrates said, "When you can, put your drugs away and let food be your medicine".

Dr Muth is extremely knowledgeable in so many ways about natural health care, including prevention.

Specifically, i can personally attest to her helpfulness in colon health, digestive health, and combatting environmental toxins.

Sincerely,

Lois Vlasak
P. O. Box 3256
Dubuque, Iowa 52004-3256

RE: Bill SB532

Therese Ratajewski <reese9903@yahoo.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 8:40 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

September 27, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

To whom it may concern,

Please vote against bill SB532. According to this bill, naturopaths are going to be required to have more of a primary care license and not practice what they are truly licensed in. To ask them to do this is absolutely absurd. Many reach out to alternative care because of unanswered diagnosis/issues.

Naturopaths have worked hard to earn the licenses they have and the title. To change that would be insulting to not only them but the clients that seek them out due to their profession. Natural medicine and vitamins have been around for years and naturopaths have taken the schooling to earn that license and provide the best solution for their clients as they see fit. I have a right to seek a second opinion on my health and want my right to seek alternative care the way I see fit. The way I choose to get through healing.

Bill SB532 is not helping anyone but discrediting naturopaths who worked towards something they believe in and their clients. Many people search for alternative ways in life to heal. You would not ask a psychiatrist to do this and then change their title/license. Because people know to seek them out for mental health if needed and it may be needed because they are dealing with a serious medical condition. This bill just does not make sense.

The other thing I understand is they will no longer be called NDs. Once again, it is a specialized field. Please respect the path they chose, their clients and please respect their license!

Therese
New Berlin, WI

Letter for AB532 for tomorrow

Diane Kuknyo <dkuknyo@hotmail.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 8:13 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Hi Jaustin,

Please let me know you have successfully received this letter. Do I send an original copy somewhere? Or is this letter sent to you enough?

Thank you for your assistance in the matter and for getting this letter to Dr. Muth. I apologize I am not a better writer, if either of you has some suggestion please let me know. I am home today.

Kind regards,
Diane Kuknyo

Letter for Dr. Muth

Laurenm1959@gmail.com <laurenm1959@gmail.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 6:44 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Lauren Mos
Byron, IL 61010
September 27, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

Dear Dr. Muth,

I have been your patient for almost 8 years. Although I have not been to your practice for few years, I so appreciated all the compassionate and kind treatment you provided me during a very difficult time in my life. You came highly recommended from many people who had sought treatment from you. My husband was employed at Byron Nuclear power station in Illinois at the time that the station nurse referred us to your practice. I know firsthand that you helped many people who also suffered from Lyme Disease and co-infections. Your knowledge and research has helped me to regain a quality of life.

Dr. Muth I so appreciate all your dedication and years of experience helping people to function again. I also appreciate that you offered many options and choices for the type of treatment that was needed. It amazes me how much you have invested over the years to upgrade your practice. It's my opinion, that constantly evolving with the many different treatments is what helped many us with so many health issues get results. Thank you for standing up for us, when there was nowhere else to go.

Grateful Patient,
Lauren Mos

Sent from my iPhone

Thanks to Dr Muth

Vicki Smith <vickismith2828@gmail.com>

Mon 9/27/2021 6:26 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

3126 Wetland Way

East Troy, WI

September 27, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

Dear Dr. Muth,

Over five years ago I came to you with debilitating pain from what was suspected coming from Lyme disease and after a year of getting denied by seven doctors refusing to treat me, even one doctor saying "He would not touch me with a 10 foot pole" to my face. I finally found you. And for the first time I had hope for my future.

Your treatment and diagnosis for my Lyme disease could not have come a day sooner. I truly don't know what kind of condition my Health would be in today. The pain was to getting unbearable. I think God that I found you and now I am living a healthy happy life. Thank you for everything that you've done for me in the past and in the future.

I truly don't know what I would've done without a doctor like you. Thank you,

Vicki Smith

(No subject)

Ann Lessila <ann.lessila@lessilatherapy.com>

Tue 9/28/2021 9:41 AM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Cc: ann.lessila@lessiltherapy.com <ann.lessila@lessiltherapy.com>

Hello,

My name is Ann Lessila. I suffered with migraines and chronic joint pain for over 15 years and during that time I consulted with multiple MDs. Multiple prescriptions/tests and side effects from use of prescribed ns aids and thousands of dollars spent with no relief. I did research and found Dr Nichols, Naturopathic Dr that is located in Brookfield. She did lab work and with the results explained to me the various areas where I was deficient and prescribed natural supplements and dietary changes. My headaches and joint pain are gone!!! At 55 y/o, I feel better than I ever have and have not been sick in 2 years since starting my daily regiment of natural supplements and healthy diet. The changes in my health were so profound that my oldest daughter started naturalpathic medical school and lives the life of someone invested in healthy living for herself and those in her life. NDs should be included in every aspect of medical care. Western medicine (medical and big pharma) have gone backwards with a focus on treating the symptoms versus preventing or fixing a problem. Stop allowing big pharma and AMA to force out alternative medical care that is based on science and natural healing. Thank you and God bless

Best,

--

Ann Lessila, PT/Owner

(414)305-0489

Inline image

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Received: 09/23/21 02:26 PM
From: kmuth
To: DEB, Jen
Type: General
Subject: senete letter
Message:

Peggy Uttech <pauttech@gmail.com>
Wed 9/22/2021 1:20 PM

To: Serenity Health

Hello Dr. Muth,

My husband, Fred, and I did contact our Senator (Sen John Jagler) in person. He lives very close to us in Watertown. We had a nice long talk. He said he had not heard anything about it, but said if he was not on the committee that was handling it, he would not.

He looked it up to see which committee had it and read what info there was. He also looked at which Assembly committee had it. He read off the organizations that do not want the bill and said it did not seem like it would even get out of committee. (what he felt).

He also said he would definitely not vote for it if it was brought up.

Sen Jagler was our Assemblyman, before becoming a senator. We have always felt he was a conservative and a man of integrity.

Watertown is a conservative area (except they did not like Trump), but except for that, conservative.

I hope this helps.

Have a Blessed day,

Peggy & Fred Uttech

Dear Senate Committee,

I come before you with this letter because I am unable to appear in person. I write this on my behalf actually,
because I need the skills of a Naturopathic Doctor, especially one like Dr. Deb Muth.

I have a history of several autoimmune issues and there was a time I could barely take care of my family or even hold down a job. Before Dr. Deb, I did see MD's who really didn't know what was wrong with me, but still gave me prescriptions for symptoms. The medications did not address the cause. Therefore, my issues did not improve. I knew the education and reputation of Naturopathic Doctors would look at the whole body looking for the root cause, and where much more educated in the area of Alternative Medicine, like Supplements. I was taught by Dr. how to use food as medicine, clean eating and striving for a toxin free lifestyle to help my body get back to homeostasis, which I learned is where my body would do the best healing. After following the protocols based on sound alternative medicine and dedication, I can confidently say, my days are no longer fatigued my 3pm. Normal tasks I wasn't able to do before seeking care from Dr, Muth, like: grocery shop, cook 3 meals a day and clean up afterwards, and take care of my elderly mother are now being happily received by my family.

To conclude, I know there is a whole population of people, like me, who are continuing to heal and need the ongoing professional help of Dr. Deb Muth. It would be a travesty for so many of us who have Dr. Deb as our main practitioner to lose her in the midst of finally feeling better. So, I ask, allow Naturopathic Doctors like Dr. Debra Muth to continue to contribute to the Alternative Health community in the way she does best.

Thank You,
Janet Salamone

September 28, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

To whom it may concern,

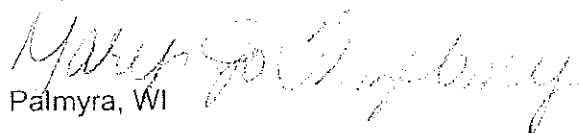
Please vote against Bill SB532. Naturopath patients like myself choose to seek out this type of health care with their own out-of-pocket health care dollars. The naturopath I see, Debra Muth, has been instrumental in improving the quality of my life and health unlike any other licensed medical practitioner I have seen. Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the lives of so many who rely upon the knowledge of NDs.

Bill SB532 would not benefit anyone and would discredit those who worked hard to become qualified to assist those who seek alternative health care. Patient choice should always be the most important consideration in health care decision-making.

Please respect the NDs and their patients. Please vote NO on Bill SB532.

Regards,
Mary Jo Trzebny

Palmyra, WI



My name is Claudia Bricks and I live at 314 Pioneer Rd. in Sheboygan, WI.

I received my naturopathic doctor certification in May of 2011 from Trinity College of Natural Health after four years of study. I am now retired.

This letter is regarding the Senate hearing on SB 532-the licensing of naturopathic doctors in the state of Wisconsin.

I would encourage the review board to consider:

1. Thinking about the many people of Wisconsin who are looking for different ways of maintaining or regaining their health, other than mainstream medical doctors. Please do not deprive these state residents the right to protect their own health by this proposed licensure process that will all but eliminate people like me who teach our clients about natural health.
2. Licensing, at this time, only those individuals wishing to be Naturopathic Medical Doctors/Physicians who have attended an accredited college or university's medical training program.
3. Allowing other certified and/or credentialed natural health practitioners who wish to provide a service to the people of Wisconsin the opportunity to do so.
4. Continuing this review by including interviews with those individuals who now call themselves naturopathic doctors, but who are not naturopathic medical doctors, in order to decide the best course of action for the people of Wisconsin who desire alternatives to allopathic medicine. Two such people that I know of are Debra Muth of Serenity Health Center in Waukesha and Angelica Pattison of Herbs and Things in Oostburg. Both are well versed on natural forms of healing and have been practicing for many years, safely helping thousands of Wisconsin residents live healthier lives.

Here are the reasons that I believe this should be done:

1. The term "doctor" means to teach/educate or be a teacher/educator. The practice of naturopathy involves an eclectic mixture of modalities that are used to help the body heal itself. Therefore, a traditional naturopathic doctor will teach/educate their clients about their own bodies, and how toxins, nutritional deficiencies, mental/emotional stress, and/or physical trauma cause the body to go out of balance allowing illness or disease to enter. In addition, a traditional naturopathic doctor will dig deeply to find

the root cause of the body's imbalance or illness. They also will treat the "whole person" as an entity where all body systems communicate with each other. What affects one body system is likely to affect other body systems.

2. Historically, Allopathic Medical Doctors typically do not have the time or the training to help residents of our state understand why they are sick. Instead, they put a name to an affliction and use drugs, surgery, and expensive equipment to treat or manage symptoms and do not look for underlying imbalances or causes of illness or disease. Allopathic medical doctors are divided into many specialties that look at one organ or one system and not the body as a whole. Rarely are Allopathic Medical Doctors trained in nutrition, or nutritional deficiencies and their effect on a person's body. Additionally, Allopathic Medical Doctors do not investigate how the level of toxins in an individual's body will negatively impact that person's health, level of energy or vitality.

3. Naturopathy (founded in 1901) and those who practice it, (whatever they might be called), use a mixture of any of the following to help their clients maintain or regain their health:
 - a. Drugless Healing,
 - b. Sunshine,
 - c. Fresh Air,
 - d. Pure Water,
 - e. Exercise/Relaxation/Restful Sleep,
 - f. Nutritious Foods,
 - g. Herbs, Roots, and Other Natural Supplements,
 - h. Massage,
 - i. Acupuncture and Acupressure,
 - j. Chiropractic, Reflexology, Tai Chi or Qigong and/or
 - k. Electro-magnetic chaos balancing

In other words, those who practice naturopathy use natural, drugless and nonsurgical methods to help a person's body heal. They look for root causes of disease and believe that germs are scavengers that typically only come into the

body when disease, injury or illness is present. In my opinion, this is vastly different than the world of allopathic medicine.

A practitioner that truly believes in naturopathy, would typically not need to prescribe any drugs or surgery, because they use other methods to heal the body. Therefore, at this time, they shouldn't need licensing by the state, because they use education and nutritional and/or herbal supplements that work with the body's healing mechanisms and are safe and rarely have the side effects so common in drug therapy.

I certainly understand the conundrum the label of naturopathic doctor has created not only in Wisconsin, but also across this great country. I do believe that there are ways to **1.) license naturopathic medical doctors/physicians** who want to prescribe certain drugs and do minor surgeries, **2.) but still allow those that want to practice naturopathy and its natural methods to exist.**

Please vote against SB 532 in order for the discussion to continue that will allow both of these things to happen and not shortchange the good people of Wisconsin who want to have different options regarding their health.

Client choice should always be the most important consideration in health care decision-making.

Please respect those who practice naturopathy and their clients. Please vote NO on Bill SB532.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Claudia J Bricks
314 Pioneer Rd.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Bob Bonesho

From: noreply@gmfschamber.com
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Bob Bonesho
Subject: Senate Bill 532

A user of the The Chamber, Inc. directory has requested information from you.

Message

Senator Darling:

I am writing this email to you in support of licensing Naturopathic Doctors to practice in The State of Wisconsin.

I suffered from migraine headaches from my pre-teen years through my forties. Medical Doctors (MDs) prescribed pills and narcotics that just knocked me out for days. It wasn't until I was referred to and went to a Naturopathic Doctor, Debra Muth, ND, WHNP, BAAHP, that I was treated for the root causes of my migraines and not just the pain associated with the migraine headaches. It has been years since my treatment program started and the frequency of migraines I get has dropped from 4-6 a month to 4-6 a year.

My Naturopath Doctor works with other healthcare providers including chiropractors, acupuncturists and medical doctors to provide a "total health care plan" for me. Her knowledge of not only anatomy and physiology but also of supplements and alternative medicines and treatments has benefited my chronic medical condition.

I urge you to support the naturopathic profession and licensure of Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Robert Bonesho, AIA
c. 414-403-8466
BBonesho@hga.com

Contact Information

Name: Robert Bonesho	Contact Pref: Phone
Company:	Address: N80 W15677 Rainbow Drive
Phone: 4144038466	Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051
Email:	US

Referral generated Monday, September 20, 2021 8:04:01 PM

Note: Please do not respond directly to this e-mail. The originating e-mail account is not monitored.

September 28, 2021

Serenity Health Care
1708 Paramount Court
Waukesha, WI 53186

To whom it may concern,

Please vote against Bill SB532. Naturopath patients like myself choose to seek out this type of health care with their own out-of-pocket health care dollars. The naturopath I see, Debra Muth, has been instrumental in improving the quality of my life and health unlike any other licensed medical practitioner I have seen. Please consider the ramifications this bill will have on the lives of so many who rely upon the knowledge of NDs.

Bill SB532 would not benefit anyone and would discredit those who worked hard to become qualified to assist those who seek alternative health care. Patient choice should always be the most important consideration in health care decision-making.

Please respect the NDs and their patients. Please vote NO on Bill SB532.

Regards,
Diane Lehmann

La Selva Beach, CA
Formerly, New Berlin, WI

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. We will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

I have been working with Amy Hoffman at Serenity Healthcare for several years now. She has been helping me with, supporting my hormone levels as well as detoxing my body from heavy metals. That along with supplements have kept me healthy and able to perform the important task of caring for my disabled husband and son.

Recently, I brought my son to Dr. Brown at the clinic. My son has a genetic disorder, Cornelia DeLange Syndrome. Some of his issues are gut related as well as autistic like behaviors. Dr. Brown was able to spend well over an hour studying test results I brought in. I'm looking for answers as to what might be causing some of his problems and ways to improve his health in order to make his life more manageable for him and me.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Karen Diehl
4520 W. Layton Ave.
Greenfield, WI 53220

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Lori, and I live in Milwaukee, WI. I sought out Naturopathic Medical care because I spent 6 years seeing a large variety (30 plus) of other licensed medical doctors and specialists who were unable to find the cause to my health problems. They were educated to treat my symptoms instead of getting to the root cause of them, which resulted in thousands of dollars wasted and years of feeling extremely ill leaving me heartbroken, disappointed and bedridden.

If it wasn't for Naturopathic doctors, I wouldn't have discovered I had Lyme disease for 25 years. It is incurable and chronic for me because too much time has gone by because of being misdiagnosed. If I had not sought out Naturopathic Medical care, I believe I wouldn't be alive today.

Debra Muth, ND, WHNP, APNP, BAAHP has gone above and beyond with her education, training and qualifications to address my health care concerns. She is always prepared to offer alternative options if what we are trying isn't working. She solves my health problems by looking deeper than other physicians have, evaluating nutrition, lifestyle, and offers comprehensive in-depth lab testing to understand my symptoms better.

She is highly educated and has received extensive training and numerous hours of continuing education. She is able to provide me with the most up-to-date information and state of the art care at every visit. She has received training in the same biomedical and diagnostic sciences as MDs and osteopathic doctors (DOs) so NDs need to be treated equally and given the opportunity to be licensed.

Debra Muth is an integral component of the my health care team and works alongside my primary care physician and other healthcare providers to optimize my health and quality of life. She is invested in my long-term health and wellness.

She should not be disregarded as a ND after practicing for 25 years because of a legislative bill that was most likely proposed by someone who hasn't experienced years of sickness without a proper diagnosis. Instead, she should be honored for her commitment to her patients. She should be respected for her knowledge about herbs, supplements and chronic illness. She needs to be able to continue to have access to recommended supplements and nutrition because I've always felt safe in the care of Debra Muth.

If this bill denies her the freedom to practice, it will also deny me of receiving the proper healthcare treatment I need in order to function in my daily life.

I completely support her in being able to remain in practice, and I look forward to hearing of a positive outcome.

Sincerely,
Lori Edwards

11/19

Dr. Debra Muth saved me at a time when my life came crashing down. I had been teaching at the time, and many variables were in place that contributed to my menopausal descent and adrenal burnout.

My life came to a halt. I did not understand at all what was happening to me. All I knew was that I was on a downhill spiral and I needed help. I was unable to go to work and I was bedridden.

It was at this point I ended up seeing 8 different doctors before I found Debra Muth. All the doctors I saw were to no avail. I was not diagnosed, misdiagnosed or scoffed at. All this was very traumatizing to me.

I walked into Debra Muth's office crying hoping someone could help me.

She was kind, patient and knowledgeable. She immediately was able to give me an explanation for what was happening to me. She reassured me she could help and there would be an end in sight. My hormone testing showed I need hormone therapy along with supplements for my adrenals. This diagnosis was like a miracle to me because the regular health care system failed me. Debra was patient and knowledgeable and explained everything to me. I was greatly relieved knowing I was going to get the help I needed to get back to myself.

This was indeed a long journey. It actually took about 2 years. I was guided by the best. All my healing was done in a natural way. With all Debra's knowledge as ND, she brought me back to myself. This was something no other doctor was willing or knowledgeable enough to do. I would not have made it without her. She saved me when no other

204013 1144 a 114-

This happened over 15 years ago. I still see Debra Muth once a year for a checkup. Her expertise as a natural practitioner holds a much needed place in the medical world. She offered a safe, natural, and healthy way to recover that was not offered to me by any traditional western doctor. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to her.

She has helped countless people with various special medical needs. She has a very special niche that cannot be replaced. I strongly suggest she is allowed to continue to practice, diagnose and help the many, many people who need an alternative way to heal. She is needed. Her patients believe in her and trust her expertise. We cannot lose someone who has helped so many on their healing journey. It would be a grave loss to so many people, myself included. Please take all this into consideration. I support Dr. Muth. I do not support the ND bill. She needs to be able to continue to practice as a ND. We all need her!

Thankyou
Susan Kachian

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. We will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

September 23, 2021

My name is Diane Kuknyo, I live in Woodridge, IL. I sought Naturopathic Medical care, in this case from Dr. Muth ND during the last 6 months, as I was receiving treatment from an MD here but wanted a more broad rounded approach. I had met with a few medical doctors here and completed the treatments recommended but still did not feel better despite an adequate amount of diagnosis, treatment and healing time.

Per recommendations from friends', I sought out the perspective of Dr. Deb Muth ND. I shared my completed tests and blood work and my MD's thoughts and recommendations. She elaborated on the MD's thoughts, suggesting additional testing, and vitamin and herbal supplementation. The results of the additional testing found hormone deficiencies and multiple high levels of gut infection. Here I would like to highlight, my current MD had not addressed the hormone deficiencies despite their levels being at the very bottom of the healthy range, and the identification of the gut infection also clarified my digestive challenges and overall feeling of unwellness. Additionally, I appreciated the option to treat these issues with herbs and vitamins rather than prescriptions, as I have had several poor reactions to prescriptions in the past. Also aiding my treatment plan, Dr. Muth included recommendations on how to keep my detox pathways working optimally averting overwhelming the body with side effects from too much die off.

I have been treated by many ND's over the years and I've appreciated each one immensely for their treatment and approach tactics and ultimately only switched primarily due to their relocation circumstances. They have always taken my overall health and full body functioning under consideration during assessment, and at times have come up with answers where the medical community could not/ did not. My first example of this was the identification of my gluten intolerance during 2008. I had over 12 unusual symptoms and had addressed a few medical doctors with their diagnosis' ranging from hypoglycemia, stress, and depression. I saw a ND for his assistance and started to name a few of my symptoms, I became overwhelmed by

tears, and he asked if he could take a guess at my others. He described me. He suggested that I remove all gluten, oats, potatoes from my diet for 2 weeks and we would assess how I felt and move to the next level of treatment. I felt much better and have been predominantly gluten free since then. If I do have a rare cheat or had unintentional gluten, I know the symptoms immediately and can take supplemental actions to mitigate several days of distress, which the ND educated me on. I haven't had a medical doctor yet that can make such recommendations. Another example is that other MD's did not figure out my Lyme diagnosis, a ND did. This was a paramount finding. I have had incredible challenges with this disease. MD testing completed only at my urging was negative. I finally received a Lyme test recommended by ND's, which resulted in a DNA diagnosis of multiple tick infections, and hence we were able to create and start a treatment plan. In my case, I chose a non prescription protocol using vitamins, herbs and other self care protocols with success. Subsequent blood tests indicate this result.

Naturopaths and medical doctors are both needed. In my case, currently I am working with both with Dr. Muth as my lead. She and a local MD collaboratively treat and guide me through the decided upon protocols. I prefer to use a team effort for my health getting different opinions, comments and insights from both professionals. It see them both at regular intervals and it also allows for questions to be asked at different intervals in my treatment and for treatment ideas to be added.

Regarding Dr. Muth specifically, her overall knowledge and preparation for our appointments is excellent. I have been dealing with chronic illness for over 10 years, and have experienced a LOT of protocols. I find Dr. Muth ND to be quite knowledgeable on a wide range of treatments to which she would either give insight, suggestions, or comments, and she is straight about her thoughts on any given health topic- which I appreciate. My appointments are as long as we need them to be and I have never left an appointment with unanswered questions, uncovered topics, or unquelled fears. She is aware of all my labs prior to our meeting and is ready to discuss them. She expertly picks up from our last appointment's topics and we review all symptoms and progress. I am continually appreciative of her broad perspective and knowledge on health topics and how she can suggest herbs or vitamins or alternative health solutions for the variety of health issues I have had come up; such as inflammation, poor digestion, energy, brain function, poor immunity, gut infection, poor motility, and low immunity. Not only is my well-being progress proof but the testing reflects the improvement.

Thank you for letting me briefly share some of my story.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diane Kuknyo
6420 Double Eagle Drive, Unit 1111
Woodridge, IL 60517

September 26th, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please vote against bill AB532. It is being presented to license naturopaths in Wisconsin and to recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although a physician shortage exists within the USA, this bill does not correct that problem.

Naturopaths are trained primarily in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. Naturopaths are proud to be drugless practitioners.

With AB532, approximately ten naturopaths are requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within their licensing request, they ask for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT, and X-rays, and pronounce people deceased.

As a client, this is not the expertise I have sought naturopathic care for. Instead, I have worked with naturopaths because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in Wisconsin are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If AB532 passes as it is currently written, 20+ Naturopaths in Wisconsin will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. Furthermore, these naturopaths will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND, or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title -- but titles mean something -- not just to the professional who earned it, but to the people they treat.

The twenty-plus naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close practices. The ten naturopaths pushing AB352 say all naturopaths will be able to practice; however, according to how the bill is written, the twenty-plus naturopaths would be "practicing without a license," which is illegal.

Before I went to see ND, Muth the VA had seen me for chest pain, heart palpitations, numbness in the arm, and stomach pain. After getting an endoscopy and testing the digestive organs such as the kidneys, liver, and pancreas, everything checked out in the normal range. I was given antiacids and told it was most likely just GERD and sent home. However, the pain got worse. The palpitations and arm numbness increased where it felt like I was going to have a heart attack. I went to the ER multiple times, and yet nothing major was ever found.

Despite no obvious medical findings, my health was deteriorating even more. I experienced dizziness and new food and chemical sensitivities. Brain fog set in, and I started to experience extreme fatigue. I got to the point where not only was I feeling miserable, but my body itself was telling me that something was very wrong; it was telling me that if I kept in that direction, I could die.

Finally, in addition to all these debilitating symptoms, I started getting chills. Despite using an electric blanket, I could not stop shivering for hours. This happened for about a week, several times a day. So I went into the VA again for more testing. They checked for high white blood cell count, and the results came back negative, so nothing was given to me to fight whatever was going on in my body.

After this last trip to the ER, I decided to get a second opinion and went to Serenity. My first impression of ND Muth was that she practiced with the "test don't guess" philosophy, which stood out to me right away and is highly valued when seeking medical advice. I was tested for things such as Lymes and other co-infections. I tested positive and was given some antibiotics. The chills stopped, the pain lessened. I have also been prescribed some tinctures and supplements to help support my body as it got rid of the toxins as the parasitic bacteria died off.

While I am not fully recovered, I am in a lot less pain. I no longer wake up in the middle of the night with chills and heart palpitations. My sensitivity to some foods has regressed, and I am on the path to wellness. Without ND Muth's guidance, I shudder to think where I would be if I had continued with traditional medicine. Unfortunately, if bill AB 532 is passed, I don't know where to go to complete my wellness journey.

I urge you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. In the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Brandon Spor

2410 Fox River Pkwy B
Waukesha WI, 53189

September 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please vote against bill AB 532. It is being presented to license naturopaths in Wisconsin and to recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although a physician shortage exists within the USA, this bill does not correct that problem.

With AB532, approximately 10 naturopaths are requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within their request for licensing, they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays, and pronounce people deceased.

As a client, this is not the expertise I have sought naturopathic care for. Instead, I have worked with naturopaths because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box, and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in Wisconsin are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If AB532 passes as it is currently written, 20+ Naturopaths in Wisconsin will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. These naturopaths will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title -- but titles mean something -- not just to the professional who earned it, but to the people they treat.

The 20+ naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close practices. The 10 naturopaths pushing AB532 are saying all naturopaths will be able to practice, however, according to how the bill is written, the 20+ naturopaths would be "practicing without a license", which is illegal.

For many years my son with Autism and Lyme disease has been treated with naturopathic medicine. I thank God I have these people that are actually helping my son. Many "regular" medical doctors are clueless how to treat these complicated disorders.

Many families will be destroyed taking away how Naturopaths can practice now in Wisconsin. I don't know what I would do without their help to continue the care that I have been receiving over the years for my family. Now more than ever we need to protect their license to practice. I would think there would be many people that could help my son having so many medical doctors in the area but there is not. Many people all over the country seek out Naturopathic doctors because they are so desperate for help they are not getting somewhere else. Please do not pass AB532

Christine Iovine
2003 22 ST
Kenosha, WI. 53140

Christine lovine
2003 22 ST
Kenosha, WI 53140

9/26/2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jennifer Guzdek; I live in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I've been a patient of Dr. Debra Muth's since 2011, a Naturopath and Nurse Practitioner. I began seeing Dr. Muth for the treatment of Lyme disease. I was first bit by a tick at nine years old while camping in Northern Wisconsin. At the time, doctors did not know much about the disease. I was treated with an antibiotic that does not treat the condition. In 2002, while camping in Wisconsin, I was bit by again. After returning home, I went to my local walk-in clinic in Kenosha, Wisconsin; I was diagnosed with an infected spider bite. From 2008 – 2009 I was in college earning my Associates Degree in Business Management, taking 20-22 credits a semester, working full-time as a teller supervisor, and working part-time at the Wisconsin Donor Network, one of Wisconsin's Organ Procurement Organizations, it was my dream job. I'll explain why later.

In 2010, I began struggling with my health. My mom suspected it had something to do with the tick bite I had as a child. I went to my primary care doctor, whom I had only seen about four times for a routine yearly checkup. The doctor entered the room and asked what the reason for my visit was. I told her I wanted to be tested for Lyme disease. Without hesitation she said "I think you're bipolar." I got up calmly from my seat, and I said, "I'm not paying for this appointment." She said that was okay. She never asked me why I wanted the test or questioned what my symptoms were. She just wanted to diagnose me as bipolar without asking any questions related to that diagnosis. Imagine I trusted this doctor and allowed her to treat me for a mental health issue I've never been diagnosed with.

In 2011, I found Dr. Muth; my first appointment was almost an hour-long; she asked me many questions about my health history and symptoms. I showed her the picture my ex-husband took of my bite from 2002. She said it was a classic bulls-eye rash. Confirming the misdiagnosis by the doctor, I saw at the walk-in clinic. Dr. Muth presented my treatment options. I chose the treatment option I was comfortable with.

In 2012, I found myself unable to work or go to school. My dream job was gone. During a follow-up visit, Dr. Muth could see I was struggling. I could barely sit in the chair during my appointment. She started questioning me about mold. My former employer did have mold in their building on two occasions while I worked there. After the appointment my dad found mold in my basement, hiding behind a finished wall after he tore it down. Dr. Muth immediately changed my treatment protocol. In August 2013, I foreclosed on my home of 7 years and walked out with clothes, pictures, and essential documents.

In 2014, I was well enough to begin working full-time again. I did experience additional neurological health issues in 2016 that caused me to stop working. Dr. Muth could not help me with these issues but referred me to a neurologist that could. I've been working since 2018 and finished my Bachelor's degree with honors in 2019. In December, I'll graduate with an MBA-Accounting, and in March of 2022 with an MBA - Finance. I'm on track to graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Muth is responsible for bringing me back to being a productive, self-reliant member of society once again.

I want to talk about my connection to organ donation briefly. In 1995, my 21-year-old brother Joe was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure. His kidneys were functioning at 10%; Joe was diagnosed with streptococcal glomerulonephritis. He had a strep throat infection as a child that traveled to his kidneys and destroyed them over time. Joe was an athlete growing up, and to play sports, he was required to have a physical from his doctor. Every time he saw his doctor, his blood pressure was high. The doctor wrote off Joe's high blood pressure as "white coat syndrome," assuming Joe was nervous to see him. The Dr. never ordered routine blood tests, which would have shown elevated kidney levels and declined kidney function. In 1997, Joe received a life-saving kidney transplant. Joe had to go on social security. Medicaid paid for his year and a half of dialysis and his transplant. All due to a doctor's misdiagnosis. Joe recently

began dialysis again this month. After 23 years, his donated kidney stopped working. Joe is no longer working and once again on Medicaid, and social security. This is why I became active in promoting organ and tissue donation awareness and why working at the Wisconsin Donor Network was my dream job.

In my experience and opinion, licensed medical providers have done more harm than good to myself and my brother. They have taken two able-body individuals and made them dependent on the system. For me, I can say, Dr. Muth, an ND, had corrected their mistakes. I ask that you vote against Assembly Bill 532 and find a way to grandfather in the 20+ Naturopaths in Wisconsin that would no longer be able to practice if this bill passes.

Would you please vote against Assembly Bill 532 to license naturopaths in Wisconsin and recognize them as primary care practitioners? Although a physician shortage exists within the USA, this bill does not correct that problem. Naturopaths are trained primarily in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. Naturopaths are proud to be drugless practitioners.

With Assembly Bill 532, approximately ten naturopaths are requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within their licensing request, they ask for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT, and X-rays, and pronounce people deceased.

As a client, this is not the expertise for which I sought naturopathic care. Instead, I have worked with naturopaths for their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in Wisconsin are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If Assembly Bill 532 passes as it is currently written, 20+ Naturopaths in Wisconsin will no longer legally practice within their training scope. These naturopaths will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND, or anything remotely close to their degree

training and preparation. It is easy to see it is just a title -- but titles mean something -- not just to the professional who earned it, but to the people they treat.

The 20+ naturopaths will be fenced out and forced to close practices. The ten naturopaths pushing Assembly Bill 532 state that all naturopaths will be able to practice; however, according to the bill's language, the 20+ naturopaths would be "practicing without a license," which is illegal.

I have chronic Lyme, which is not treatable for the most part with just Rx. We need and require herbal healing, detox protocols, and more of which allopathic MDs have zero knowledge. Big pharma is rarely the answer, for anyone, except as a short-term solution. For myself and many others, the answer lies in a health care team of both MDs and NDs, valuing each other and working cooperatively.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Respectively,

Jennifer Guzdek

September 25th, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

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I have chronic Lyme, which is not treatable for the most part with just Rx. We need and require herbal healing, detox protocols, etc that allopathic MDs have zero knowledge of. Which is of course, a big shame. As big pharma is rarely the answer anyway, for anyone. It's a way to make money, period. But that's a whole other, tens-of-pages essay.

Please vote against bill AB 532. Please tell them to instead work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Danielle Masek

Senator Chris Larsen
PO Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Sen.Larson@legis.wisconsin.gov

Assemblyman Johnathan Brostoff

Rep.Brostoff@legis.wisconsin.gov

Robert Raymond
1212a East Burleigh St
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
414-232-3022

September 26, 2021

Dear Sirs,

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

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My naturopath is important to me as she provides me with good advise on ways to deal with my condition without the medication that causes other complications and side effects. I would be devastated without her assistance.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Robert Raymond
414-232-3022
1212a East Burleigh
Milwaukee, WI 53212

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If I could be present to speak I would. Unfortunately I have to work. Here is my written story. All my life I struggled with fatigue, menstrual issues, and mood swings. It was hard for me to wake up and function when I was a child in the mornings. Most kids were raring to go, but not me. My school grades weren't the best either. I continued on this path for many years into adulthood where I had pregnancy issues (premature baby), and still having trouble waking up in the mornings. I was always cold. Imagine living like that. I went for my annual check ups through life as well as my annual appointments with my OBGYN. Nobody ever actually bothered to look deeper into these issues. In 2014, my menstrual cycle was getting worse. I was bleeding really bad. My OBGYN stated I was premenopausal. I believed the doctor. Why wouldn't I? Later that year, I had severe pain, and my GP told me it was premenopausal. I stated, this seemed different. My GP offered an ultrasound, but didn't think anything would become of it. The result showed a 10 cm fibroid sitting on top of my uterus. To make a long story short. I had a hysterectomy in Maryland with their innovative surgery. They found endometriosis, and hemorrhaging. The surgery that was done by this fantastic surgeon had me back to work in 10 days.

After the hysterectomy, I saw an endocrinologist. After all the cortisol tests, blood work, thyroid etc., my panels came back borderline normal/low. She stated I was fine. Told me to wear an estrogen patch and sent me on my way. Again, another prestigious doctor out of the Medical College.

For Years and years, the struggle was too much estrogen dominance. I know this because my surgeon stated fibroids are notorious when a woman has a lot of estrogen. NOT one doctor in all the years of suffering helped me. All the schooling, and all the prestigious schools attended, think about that for a moment. After my hysterectomy, and along with anemia due to blood loss, I spoke with a friend who recommended someone to help me. This changed my life.

First, I can't thank this friend enough for the recommendation. I really wish I could speak to you in person. If I ever get a chance again, I will. I was very unaware of a Naturopath doctor. I never even heard of Serenity Health Care. I made an appointment, and was scheduled to see Dr. Muth.

I brought all my test results from the Endocrinologist, and gave Dr. Muth all my history. She spent about an hour with me. Problems I had all my life to that present time. As I write this to you, it very much upsets me. It upsets me because I know my doctor has helped so many to get well, and she shouldn't have to go through this. But that's my opinion.

She looked at my results, and immediately said, these panels are in the low ranges and are not normal, and I'm going to run a few more tests so we can figure this all out, but we will see. Sure enough, hypothyroid, cortisol and adrenal gland, my hormones were not balanced, as well as lead poisoning (and this causes many of the problems I mentioned above). A doctor who actually found my health problems. If she was my doctor earlier on in my life, It's likely I would not have had a fibroid, a hysterectomy, a premature baby, and all these other health issues. I sought treatment for lead poisoning. This is a very short version of my life. A version that will help you understand it saddens me to see what is going on with this bill and my doctor. I spent my time giving you very personal information. Personal information that I wouldn't tell. But I will here if it's a matter of keeping my doctor. I want to make it clear that none of my GP's (2) or OBGYN doctor(s) (second opinion) through the years helped to solve these issues.

Today I am well. My thyroid, adrenals, and hormones are all in check. I get tested every six months and annually. My cold feeling is gone because my thyroid is in check, I get up in the mornings better, I'm not an emotional rollercoaster, and I have had metal toxicity treatments. This is all because of Dr. Muth. A doctor who I think is the most sensitive, caring, doctor who will not just mask the problem with medicine so that you can function in life, but will get down to the bottom of the problem and solve it. And for that, I thank her. God bless. All her knowledge and expertise saved me.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Cassandra Drew
206 Shore Circle, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Dear Senate Committee,

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

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These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

I have been a patient of naturopathic medicine since 2012. I am a person who is very sensitive to certain chemicals and has allergies to medications.

Naturopathic medicine's knowledge of Herbs and nutritional supplements has aided my chronic illness with my sensitivity issue to modern medicine. With alternative medicine I am still be a productive person in society working a fulltime Job.

I have seen other practitioners who have diagnose with me various conditions write a prescription just to have the medicine prescribed become problematic.

This is not a one size fits all world, please consider those who do fit into the realm modern medicine. and protect our Naturopathic medicine provider.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sandra Garcia
1263 Christopher Ct.
Oconomowoc WI 53066

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These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close their practices or according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

If I could be present to speak I would. Unfortunately, I have to work. I can tell you that I had sought help from multiple general practitioners and specialists to care for anxiety, sleep, digestive and nervous system issues. I had adverse reactions to the treatments and medications they offered. The solution, it seemed, was always worse than the disorders that were keeping me from living a productive and happy life. This went on for far too many years. It was not until I was introduced to the alternative options provided by my naturopathic practitioner that I was finally able to gain relief and get my life back in order. I now feel better than I have at any point in the past 20 years.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Thomas E Taibl
3406 Turnberry Oak Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188
414-491-6935

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client, this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. They will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it, but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close their practices. This group is saying that they will be able to practice, but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

I have worked with naturopaths as a client for a number of years. I started going to Dr. Deb Muth about a year ago, and have appreciated her knowledge and experience which has enabled her to help me with my chronic illness. I believe she should be allowed to continue practicing as an ND, so I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and instead to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future, new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sara Morris
4323 Hubertus Rd.
Hubertus, WI 53033

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I have been a patient of Dr. Debra Muth since approximately 2011. As an active 55-year-old woman facing menopause with its sweats, chills, and irritability, I knew that if I didn't balance my depleting hormones that I would be entering a stage where illness after illness would eventually deplete me of a healthy and active lifestyle.

Dr. Muth was highly recommended to me by a dear friend of mine, so I happily made the appointment to see Dr. Muth. I found her to be very attentive who took my health issues seriously. She was familiar and knowledgeable of the symptoms that had been plaguing me and knew exactly what treatment to provide. She suggested I complete a simple and inexpensive saliva test to determine what my estrogen and progesterone levels were. From that test, she was able to determine where my levels needed to be and wrote the prescriptions. I was also grateful that that test was one that I could afford. I am very happy to say that I have not been bothered with sweats and chills since then. My husband was thankful that I no longer became irritated easily.

This past year at the age of 66 years old, my health and mobility began to fail. My legs were weak, I had a hard time walking any distance, my feet were sore, and I had issues with breathing when going up and down staircases. All of my muscles in my body were very tight and I felt like an old, crooked oak tree. Again, I made the appointment to see Dr. Muth in June 2021. She knew exactly why I was experiencing those symptoms and knew which supplements I needed and the amount to take. I work in an extremely large warehouse, my work area is on the second floor, two flights of stairs 13 steps each and by the time I reached the top I was out of breath and could hardly speak. I hated to go up and down those steps and avoided them. However, there was no elevator in the building and the restrooms were on the first floor. Fast forward to 4-6 weeks later...

With every week, I can feel my legs get stronger! I no longer need to pull on door handles or railings to help me up steps/staircases! I can walk distances! I don't get

winded easily anymore! My feet no longer hurt! I am no longer plagued by stiff muscles! They are loose and pliable! I can enjoy life again!!!!

And now you, my Congressmen and/or Congresswomen, are considering a bill that would deprive me of my doctor. Why? Who will I be able to see if you force Dr. Muth to close her practice? Does it matter to you that you, with a stroke of a pen, or a raised hand to vote, can wreak havoc in *my* life and in the lives of so many people, people you don't even know exist? Why? Why ruin our lives, our mobility, our health if we can no longer meet with Dr. Muth or other naturopaths? This bill will remove our choice to see naturopath doctors.

If I need to see a medical doctor for other health issues, e.g., drugs/medications, minor surgeries, have tests (MRI's, CT scans, X-rays, etc.) I know where to find them! But for my general, overall health, I choose to see Dr. Muth to guide me along my life's journey where my health is supported by natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities.

Please be mindful of the impact this bill AB 532 will have on so many lives; the impact it will have on so many families. The impact it will have on *me*! Please remember that we live in the Land of the Free. Freedom to choose. Free to choose how we live. Free to choose our method of healthcare. Hospitals, clinics, medical offices are full of licensed medical personnel, why halt the practices of Naturopaths? Again, I say WHY?

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Deanna J LaForge
710 High Street
Union Grove, WI 53182

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My daughter and I are getting help from one of Serenity's nurse practitioners. We both suffer from anxiety, and this practice is helping us "cure" our anxiety using supplements. Traditional medications have not helped us in the past. We feel so lucky to have access to a practice like Serenity. They care about total health and healing.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Aimee Reissenweber
37144 N. Fox Hill Dr.
Wadsworth, IL 60083

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I have been a patient at Deb Muth's Serenity Healthcare for close to six years now and I can honestly say I do not know what I would do without the amazing clinic and healthcare she has provided me with. Just recently, I came down with Covid. I was so sick, but most of all, I was so afraid, because there is so much misinformation out there. I literally phoned in to Serenity Healthcare at least three times during the course of my illness. Each time, I was able to speak with one of Deb Muth's brilliantly trained associates. Each time I hung up the phone, I was left with helpful treatments and suggestions to get me through this horrific virus. I truthfully do not know what I would have done without their expertise and guidance. It frightens me terribly to think that there is any kind of bill that would force this incredible healthcare clinic to close.

As a patient, when I sit in the waiting room awaiting my scheduled appointment, the vast number of patients I witness leaving the clinic is phenomenal! Each one of the patients is literally filled with gratitude and comfort, when I listen to them speak as they check out. They are so relieved, as they have just been given the hope, they need to conquer their unique and mysterious illness. To take away such an effective and needed practice, would a tremendous injustice to those who seek to find health and harmony in their lives. Quite honestly, it would be just wrong!!

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Ann G. Coon, 847-204-4250
N9W30025 Lang Udsigt Circle Waukesha, WI 53188

Billie Krantz

2411 Kayla Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188

PHONE (262) 278-4494 bbkrantz@wi.rr.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

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If AB532 passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. Titles like naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or such characterizations may not be allowed. This makes it almost impossible for me, the patient, to find such healthcare providers.

I am a retired female executive from Waukesha WI. Until a few months ago I was very healthy, athletic, quick and confident. No significant health issues or concerns! Suddenly and inexplicably my wrists, ankles, and knees, became swollen and painful. One calf bulged then the other. I had a conventional ultrasound to rule-out a blood clot. I consulted with a rheumatologist who ordered multiple x-rays (6), multiple blood tests (5), and expressly stated that "Lyme disease was not the cause." Simultaneously, I was consulting with a naturopathic practitioner (Julia Houdek) that drew blood samples which resulted in testing unequivocally positive for Lyme disease. I wanted an early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for the causation, so I chose to follow in care of the naturopathic practitioner rather than following the rheumatologic path of never-ending blood tests. BTW the naturopathic practitioner chose to forego her lunch break in order to see me immediately, as my pain was intolerable by that time. Now, nine weeks after the initial consultation I am ambulatory and recovering, with confidence.

I urge you to vote against bill AB 532 and tell your associates to work on a resolution of "grandfather" language that will allow current naturopaths to practice to lawfully practice in Wisconsin. I want this option left open and available to me !

Sincerely,
Billie Krantz

Wendi K Fulcher Testimony, provided September 21, 2021, regarding licensing of Naturopathic Doctor Licensing in Wisconsin.

Now, more than ever, the conversations we have with our medical providers regarding appropriate care for each individual and our unique medical histories is needed as we navigate these uncharted areas. The thought of excluding a whole class of medical providers, especially in the midst of this, is unconscionable. It is barbaric, horrifying and immoral.

Naturopathic medicine blends the wisdom of nature with the rigors of modern science. It is a course of study that takes time, commitment and an immense volume of medical knowledge. It requires standards, testing and years of practice. Dr. Debra Muth, ND, WHNP, APNP, BAAHP is one of these medical providers, with 25-years of experience, training, education and teaching. She is *my* medical provider and this bill seeks to strip her of that.

I have been a patient of Dr. Muth for more than 15 years. In this time she has provided excellent, unmatched healthcare for me in immeasurable ways. Below are a few highlights of the ways in which I have benefited from her care. This is a part of my story.

The single greatest benefit that I receive as a patient of Dr. Muth is that of balanced, informative, individualized care that empowers me to make the best medical choices for me. That may seem like a simple statement, but I would encourage you to think about your own medical care and the catastrophic, debilitating consequences you would experience if your primary medical provider was stripped of their ability to care for you.

During my first visit, an extensive medical examination was provided by Dr. Muth. Extensive meaning more than 90 minutes of listening to *me*, asking questions and formulating future steps to take. When was the last time you had a medical provider spend 90 minutes interacting with you about your health?

Through "routine" care offered by Dr. Muth, my hypothyroidism was first diagnosed and treatment provided. No other medical provider had ever even checked on the health status of my thyroid, despite classic hallmark signs and symptoms. Not only was my thyroid not working, it was 'dead'. Dr. Muth provided me with the two alternative medications and after discussing it with her, I chose Armor Thyroid rather than Synthroid. A year later, my "MD" medical doctor said Synthroid was better and switched me. My insurance covered Synthroid, but my body had all sorts of adverse reactions. My favorite was feeling like a zombie. Dr. Muth provided a prescription for the Armor since my MD would not. In the years since, I have encountered many "MDs" and "DOs" who have never heard of Armor and its benefits. Presently, my thyroid which had been dead, has been coming back to life and is in need of routine monitoring to ensure correct dosing. Just as my hypothyroidism went unchecked, so too is my need for regular monitoring being ignored by my DO. I again turned to Dr. Muth for a treatment plan based upon *my* medical needs and not just any patient.

After sharing with Dr. Muth my years of suffering from chronic allergies and frequent ear and sinus infections as well as bronchitis and asthma, she asked me which allergies had been identified and were triggers for me. I looked at her blankly and then asked her what she meant. My first ear infection was when I was a few weeks old. I continued to get six to eight each year. I saw many specialists and had tubes put in my ears when I was four-years-old. The best the ENT specialist could offer was hope that as I grew older, I would perhaps outgrow them, possibly down to several times a year by age 15. The bronchitis and asthma were never addressed except when I would seek medical care multiple times a year due to infection. Given my lifelong history, Dr. Muth continued to probe about past testing and routine care I had received to mitigate these conditions, sure there must have been some. There were none. Thus, my journey into what should have been decade's worth of care and diagnoses began with Dr. Muth. She ordered allergy testing and

referred me to other specialists who could help treat these life-altering issues. Through coordinated care, I eventually had surgery to correct a deviated septum and a treatment plan to deal with *my* allergies. Without her expertise and guidance, I would still be treating only flare-ups and acute attacks.

I have suffered from IBS-C since I was in Junior High. Although difficult at times, it didn't become problematic until I had laparoscopic weight loss surgery 17 years ago. I was prescribed a medication by the surgeon that was later taken off the market. The alternative medication didn't work and he had no other suggestions for me to try. Dr. Muth suggested I try Turkey Rhubarb as a supplement. I did and it worked. More than a decade later, and after trying one or two different supplement options from Dr. Muth, we have consistently gone back to the Turkey Rhubarb. Numerous medical providers have asked exactly what that supplement is. Some, including a surgeon and a hospital, have even withheld this supplement from me because it didn't fall within their purview of knowledge. This was catastrophic to my health. I could fill a horror story of complications and *endangerment to my very physical life* about this alone. See below the picture and brief overview for further explanation.

Unrelated to the weight loss surgery, but discovered because of it, is a dual genetic form of anemia that I carry. Whereas I had been able to eat enough food to mask it for the better part of my life, I now had issues specific to anemia that were truly impacting my everyday health. I was referred to a Hematologist specializing in this dual form of anemia. Upon his retirement, I passed from one "MD" provider to another, with no one addressing the underlying issues or providing the specific lab testing required for proper treatment, including iron infusions. Dr. Muth provided supplements, including Vitamin B-12 injections, dietary guidelines and routine monitoring of the multiple levels of genetic anemia. Through Dr. Muth's standard of care and partnership, I again have a Hematologist who understands and am receiving the ongoing care needed.

I have lived in Wisconsin, Missouri and Michigan in the past seven years. I have *never* found anyone who provides the medical care that Dr. Muth provides *me*. She has been and continues to be one of two of my primary medical providers. I would be lost without her guidance, depth of knowledge and personal care.

This is my story. What's yours? The Hippocratic Oath states "first do no harm". I have *never* been harmed by Dr. Muth. I *have been* harmed by MDs, DOs and surgeons. It would take pages to illustrate all of the ways in which my health has been significantly helped by Dr. Muth. There are simply too many to enumerate without writing a small book.

This is about healthcare integrity and making/keeping someone medically whole. Dr. Muth has taught me to advocate for myself. She has armed me with the knowledge I need to make informed choices. She has equipped me with the tools necessary to lead a better, much healthier life.

I repeat: The thought of excluding a whole class of medical providers is unconscionable. I am calling on you to stop before you cause irreparable harm to thousands of patients like me across Wisconsin.

Best,

Wendi K Fulcher
Greendale, WI



This photo was taken five days after surgery to correct a very small hernia. The surgeon claimed she could not do the procedure laparoscopically and had to open me from below the breast to the pelvis. Neither she nor the hospital would provide me with the supplement Turkey Rhubarb. They told me it wasn't "real medicine". Dr. Muth's office even sent an unopened bottle to the hospital. To no avail. I gained 25 pounds in my five-day stay and experienced many violent reactions to the treatment being given by the surgeon and hospital. I knew instinctively I had to get out of there before they quite literally killed me. Sounds overly dramatic, but it's not. The sad truth is the surgeon gutted me like a fish and refused to treat any of my other medical conditions, including those addressed above. It took a week to have a bowel movement. It took months before I could do the most minimal of work. Ten months later, it continues to negatively impact my life to the extent that I need to seek surgical care to fix what was done to me. I have been harmed by that surgeon and hospital. ***I have never been harmed by Dr. Muth.***

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I suffered for 2 years with debilitating symptoms before I found Dr. Debra Muth. I was told I would need a defibrillator inserted to keep my heart rhythm normal. I was short of breath, losing my sight, experiencing headaches, and stroke symptoms before I came to Dr. Muth. I had every test done with no answers. I had visits with top doctors at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago, Loyola, Northshore, and others. No solutions or answers were found. I was scared I was going to die. Once I was seen at Serenity Health Center, answers were found, and I began treatment for Lyme Disease and the other issues it causes. The road was long for me, but I trusted my ND and started to see improvements. A ND saved my life, and for this I am grateful! I am back breathing, my headaches are gone, and my heart has improved. Naturopath doctors ARE real doctors, this fact cannot be denied.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Gianna LaVarda

Gianna LaVarda
5010 N. Leavitt St.
Chicago, IL
60625

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For two years my daughter's pediatrician couldn't alleviate and/or cure my daughter's health problems. So I decided to try a more natural approach and try a naturopath at the Serenity Health Centre and between one year they were able to cure my daughter. I was so happy that I decided to switch doctors too and now they are my primary doctors (for myself and my two daughters). But not only this health center has helped me. Also years ago I went to another natural/holistic doctor in Kenosha and he cured me from my hypothyroidism when all the doctors from Aurora Medical Center (western modern medicine) told me there was no cure and I had to take one pill for life. Well, they were wrong and years later I still don't have hypo. I have adopted this natural lifestyle because it REALLY WORKS. Please don't take away my Naturopaths doctors. They are the only ones that so far have treated me with respect, really listened to me and worked with me to find a solution to any health problem.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sandra Bonazza
4819 57th Dr.
Sturtevant, 53177 Wi

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Starting in 2015, I began having joint pain, hair loss, weight loss, night sweats, brain fog, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, and digestive problems. My doctors had no answers. In the end, they prescribed antidepressants. It wasn't until I went to a naturopathic doctor that I was properly diagnosed and treated. The knowledge the naturopathic doctor had about the body as a whole, chronic illness, and herbal medication was profound. The naturopathic doctor saved my life. When my son had unexplained symptoms, it was again, a naturopathic doctor that properly diagnosed and treated him. Because of these highly trained and educated doctors, our lives have been restored.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Brenda Schwaller
W5752 Duchess Ct
Plymouth, WI 53073

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As for me, I find little help in our current healthcare systems that swallowed most independent doctors. Now you are lucky to get 5 minutes of face time, hardly enough to really dive into a patient's health concern. Their practices are limited to prescriptions and whatever test is allowed. I have the feeling that they turn me into a Guinee pig because they have so little time that they take wild guesses. And suggest dangerous and unnecessary prescriptions. When I work with doctor Muth, I have confidence because she practices from a different perspective. She takes the time necessary and I think she has a higher understanding of how all of the body's organs and processes work together. She looks at me as an entire person and not a symptom to be managed.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education. I say this in the spirit of reaching an agreement but I don't know that new regulations for education are necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Judith Keller

9048 Sarah Drive

Polk City, Florida 33868

Life long resident of Wisconsin until recently but I still consider Dr. Muth as a great resource.

Dear Senators,

Dr. Deb Muth has been my Primary Doctor for 15 years and I can tell you that she is the most caring, professional, knowledgeable, Doctor I have ever had the pleasure of being a patient of. She honestly cares so deeply about her patients and is extremely passionate about what she does. She has worked tirelessly for years to build her practice and has become one of the most respected ND's in her profession. I simply cannot say enough good things about her and her character.

I, along with all of her patients, implore you to vote against this bill that would essentially hurt Dr. Muth and US!

Thank you,

Viki Murray

Dear Senator Carpenter,

My name is Mrs. Sanders and I am a resident of Milwaukee. I am writing to you regarding Senate Bill 532 concerning licensing of naturopathic doctors.

I sought naturopathic medical care many years ago when traditional medicine failed to diagnose and treat my daughter, Rachel, who was suffering migraine-like headaches which became constant and daily for a period of two years. She also suffered debilitating fatigue and constant body pain. Our naturopathic practitioner, Dr. Muth, was able to determine that Lyme Disease was the underlying cause of her issues. It has been a long journey, but under Dr. Muth's care, the constant headaches and body pain are completely gone. Her fatigue has improved where she can work on her laptop, craft for a while, dust a little, or take a short walk. Dr. Muth says that the fatigue will take longer to resolve because Rachel's body is still dealing with numerous bacterial, viral, and parasitical infections common in Lyme patients. We have discovered that treating these infections with antibiotics, a common approach for Lyme treatment, causes extreme irritation to Rachel's stomach. Herbs in liquid form have proven to be an ideal method of treatment. Rachel is 27 and has been housebound for many years.

Some time after Rachel was diagnosed with Lyme, my two other daughters, while in their teens, began to have very uncomfortable digestive issues. Dr. Muth suspected Lyme and both Beth and Katie tested positive. She treated their digestive issues effectively, while also treating the underlying Lyme Disease.

Adrenal fatigue prevented Beth from moving forward with her life in her early twenties. However, with treatment, Beth finished college and is currently employed in a law office in downtown Milwaukee. Beth is 29 and very active.

Katie also suffers debilitating fatigue. She has had to stop all activities related to writing a book on short-term missions. Like her sister, Rachel, she must take a rest in the morning and in the afternoon. Katie is 25.

Because my three daughters have Lyme, Dr. Muth surmised that I probably have Lyme, too. She was right! Most likely, the girls acquired Lyme Disease during my pregnancies. Dr. Muth is treating the neuropathy that causes burning pain in my legs. I'm seeing improvement as we treat the Lyme Disease.

The brief descriptions above can only give you a glimpse into the immense suffering Lyme Disease has caused my family. Over the years, Dr. Muth has helped all four of us "girls" with a multitude of Lyme-related issues and some issues unrelated to Lyme as well. Some of these would include women's health care, chronic fatigue, hormonal imbalances, Lyme co-infections, food sensitivities, detoxification, neurological issues, digestive problems, and mental health issues.

Dr. Muth's overwhelming knowledge and ability to treat the body as a whole is so impressive. Besides having a doctorate in naturopathic medicine, she is also a nurse practitioner. In 2011, she founded Serenity Health Care Center in Waukesha where she employs many other providers. She has been caring for patients for over 25 years. She has trained medical doctors and nurse practitioners who have chosen to practice integrative medicine.

If Senate Bill 532 is passed, we would not be able to continue receiving quality specialized care from Dr. Muth. We adore her! She is passionate about treating people, many of whom suffer from chronic

illness like us. Please vote NO on Bill 532 so Dr. Muth can continue to use her vast knowledge and experience to restore health to my family and to untold numbers of people.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Sanders

Senator Darling,

My name is Kathy Bonesho and I am a Registered Occupational Therapist. I am writing to ask you to please support the naturopathic profession! I am BRCA 1 positive and secondary to a strong family history of cancer and early death associated with cancer (brother age 51, cousins, 55 and 56). At the age of 51, it was strongly recommended to me by my team of physicians at Pro Health Cancer Center to undergo a bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries and fallopian tubes) as well as a double mastectomy. Not only was the initial news devastating but the journey was excruciating. Although my team of medical professionals were competent, they did not prepare me for what was to come. I went into immediate menopause. My lack of hormones due to the removal of both my breasts and ovaries, wreaked havoc on me both mentally and physically. I had extreme depression, and for lack of better words felt like an "it". I no longer felt or looked like a woman. The hot flashes my doctor nonchalantly mentioned would happen, were so extreme they took over my nights causing me not to sleep and my days became non-functional.

As an occupational therapist in a hospital NICU, I often work with critically ill infants, providing treatment to babies with significant medical conditions. Having a wave of intense body heat and debilitating dizziness is not an option in the neonatal intensive care unit. I contemplated resigning, as I did not want to put the infants I care for at risk. In addition, my marriage suffered. Not having any hormones, left a significant void. I approached my gynecologic oncologist, who performed the surgery during a follow up visit and although she was an excellent surgeon there was nothing she could offer that would help with the hot flashes, reduced libido, mood swings, hair loss etc. She put me on an anti-depressant. The medication was HORRIBLE! I felt dazed and my head was in a cloud. I was not myself; my heart raced all the time and I can honestly say I felt worse. I was at a loss!

I went to several doctors and it wasn't until I found Debra Muth, ND, WHNP, ACPNP, BAAHP that I finally got relief! She introduced me to things I had never heard of: Evening Primrose, Gaba, 5 HTP.... These nutritional supplements quickly became my life line. Being in the medical profession myself, I felt obligated to do my due diligence and research these products. The scientific research was compelling. Best of all they are meticulously formulated using pure ingredients. Never have I felt so safe. The next challenge was to find supplements that were safe in relation to my hormone-based condition. Dr Muth dissected my unique medical history and the long list of the conditions I was experiencing and put together a precise medical treatment plan. I have never had a doctor that put "me" together. She listened and kept asking what else, what else. No one ever had listened so closely and was up for the challenge of piecing me together like a puzzle. She is the most intelligent doctor I have ever worked with and, being in the medical profession, I have worked with more than my share. I can say that I am once again happy. I am sleeping again. My marriage and sex life are back to normal. My hot flashes are practically nonexistent and I am working confidently and productively in the NICU.

Additionally, my daughter, is also a patient of Dr. Muth. I will not share her medical history with you but what I will say is that Dr. Muth changed her life as well in ways we will be forever grateful. So much in fact that my daughter is in her last year of undergraduate school and is in the process of applying to the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Arizona.

I urge you to please support the medical professionals and licensure of Naturopathic Doctors that have dedicated their careers to help so many.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bonesho

N80W15677 Rainbow Dr.

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

My experience with naturopathic medicine over the years has proved to be beneficial for both myself and my children. Through NDs comprehensive evaluation of the whole body, they were able to uncover and treat root causes of illness that traditional medicine were unable to discern or treat. After seeking medical care within traditional medicine and not finding lasting healing, I reached out to naturopathic doctors to find root causes for my illness. Now I am on the road to recovery and better health. Naturopathic doctors have a wealth of knowledge and discernment in using proven science-based supplements to provide safe and effective, long lasting benefits without creating new problems or side effects that many pharmaceutical treatments produce. They partner with other medical care professionals to guide patients down their individual recovery paths and encourage patients to grow in their knowledge and advocate for themselves and their family. To eliminate, marginalize or put undue burdens on Naturopaths cuts off patients from having all the tools at their disposal for reaching their best health. All medical options and avenues should be kept available to all patients.

Leah Valentine, Brookfield WI

I spent years sidelined from my regular workouts with "injuries" without an accident. I never went to the doctor because I just assumed it was the natural course of working out hard. It seemed the moment I healed a joint, another would start to cause pain.

One joint after another would cause months of pain until I finally I was diagnosed with gout without increased levels of uric acid. The pain in my greater toe never went away after months so I went to my general practice doctor assuming something was wrong. She ran some basic testing for arthritis and MS. They all came back normal except for my C-reactive protein which was off the charts. She proceeded to tell me I was fine. I could barely put any pressure on my toe, but I was just told I was fine. How is an MD able to even say that to a patient?

Feeling frustrated, I looked for a different general practice doctor and found an Integrative Medicine doctor at Aurora healthcare. A Lyme's test was run and shockingly, the test came back positive. She suggested I see a Lyme literate doctor and sent me to Dr. Muth.

Seeing Dr. Muth has been life changing. After being treated for Lyme's, I no longer have regular mystery injuries in my joints. She has also fixed my chronic fatigue by ridding my body of the Lyme's. I honestly don't know what I would do without her calm, thoughtful, educated approach to my whole body rather than just try to put a bandage on symptoms. She finds the source of my issues and resolves them so I don't have to rely on "bandage" medications for the rest of my life.

As a 51 year old woman, I feel better than I have in over a decade. No long-term medications needed, I just needed someone to help me identify the actual problems I was facing and correct them. Taking Dr. Muth's license based on ridiculous criteria would be criminal. She is informed, educated and knowledgeable. She has been practicing for decades and built a strong medical practice with patients who would be lost without the ND approach to medicine. Without Dr. Muth I don't know how I will continue to receive balanced, educated healthcare.

Tracy Heinle
Organizational Change Management Consultant
14435 Woodmount Dr
Brookfield, WI 53005

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. We will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

I'm currently seeing Dr. Muth, ND for the treatment of debilitating hormonal problems that my OBGYN could not help me with. I'd been suffering horrendous hot flashes hourly all day and all night long. I'd not been able to sleep, leading to missed days of work. My joints were aching terribly.. My OBGyn admitted she didn't know why these hot flashes happen and could only prescribe to me anti-depressants - which I've tried in the past and they've wrecked havoc on my mood and my body. She said she didn't know how they worked, but that there was some clinical observation that they did help with hot flashes. I couldn't take the chance of trying addictive anti-depressants. The only other option she offered me was hormone replacement therapy that she agrees comes with significant risks for breast cancer.

I found Dr. Muth through a couple of friends who had success Dr. Muth with their hormone problems. Dr. Muth was able to read my test and prescribe a bioidentical hormone treatment plan that has helped me IMMENSELY! I'm not suffering from hot flashes anymore, nor joint pain. My Obgyn is not able and knows little to nothing about bioidentical hormone therapy. I would not be doing well, if it wasn't for Dr. Muth and her knowledge!

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jennifer Holzmann
26 Glenwood Court
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Katherine J. Shea
W265S7525 Crestview Dr.
Waukesha, WI 53189
(262) 544-1094

September 20, 2021

Senator Julian Bradley
District 28

RE: Senate Bill 532

Dear Mr. Bradley:

I understand that a Senate Committee will be meeting this week to discuss Bill 532, which could impact naturopathic doctors' right to practice.

I have been proponent of naturopathic medicine for many years, having benefited from the practice and firmly believing in its validity. My experience with naturopathic medicine has been with Dr. Debra Muth, who specializes in hormones and women's health. I specifically sought her out when I started to experience peri-menopausal symptoms. I wanted to support my body through that, not fight it with artificial hormones and drugs. I was so impressed with Dr. Muth's care and professionalism that I've stayed with her for many years.

That's not to say that I have not also utilized medical doctors when a condition called for it, but have found naturopathy be an excellent adjunct to traditional medical therapy. I am intelligent enough to know my body and how I want to care for it and WHO I want to care for it. I also have every confidence that were a situation to arise that Dr. Muth felt warranted traditional medicine, that would be her recommendation for my care. I have also worked in the "traditional" medical field my entire adult life and I have never had reason to question a naturopathic plan of care that Dr. Muth has prescribed for me.

This Bill has the potential to not only limit a naturopathic doctor's ability to practice, but a patient's right to CHOOSE. I don't WANT to be forced into medical care because there is no alternative. As a patient, I have the right to autonomy when it comes to choosing my medical provider. Naturopathic physicians are highly educated, very knowledgeable, impressively professional, compassionate, and care deeply about their field of care and their patients. They're hardly selling herbs on dark street corners.

I respectfully request that you vote NO on this Bill to protect my doctor's right to practice and MY right to choose the type of medical care that I want and from WHOM.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Katherine J. Shea
goosedance@wi.rr.com

September 24, 2021

Wisconsin State Legislature

Re: Senate Bill 532, Assembly Bill 529

To Whom This May Concern:

Dr. Deb Muth and naturopathic practitioners like her fill a very needed healthcare niche in our community. What is that niche you ask? Our healthcare system fails thousands of people every year. Why, the medical doctor only has one resource for people, give them a pharmaceutical drug. What happens when that doesn't work? Well, I was one of those people.

At 40 years old I was diagnosed with an underactive thyroid. Easy fix, right? Synthroid, which is a synthetic thyroid hormone, prescribe and have them come in for blood test once a year. What if your body does not respond to synthetic hormones? What if your symptoms don't go away? You will continue to be sick. I went to several specialists or endocrinologists to help me deal with the issue. I told them I did not feel any better on these synthetic hormones. I still had all my symptoms.

In our society, endocrinologist spend their days dealing with diabetes patients and blow off thyroid patients and say take this pill. There are people who cannot be cured with conventional healthcare practices of just handing someone a pharmaceutical and sending them out the door. I was one of those people and because my thyroid was not functioning correctly my adrenals were trying to compensate. I couldn't sleep and my heart would race. It was terrible.

I met Deb at a seminar I signed up for discussing adrenal fatigue. After this seminar, I made an appointment. Dr. Muth ran blood tests and was able to figure out that Synthroid was definitely not working. That I didn't just have classic underactive thyroid, but I had an autoimmune disease called Hashimoto's. She then put me on a natural thyroid medication called Armour. Wow, what a difference that made. In addition, she looked at my diet and recommended that I try to eliminate foods that cause allergies and which may have caused my immune system to attack my thyroid. She also ran blood work to look at what I may be lacking in vitamins and minerals. She put me on a high dose of vitamin D3 a long time ago, way before regular MD's even recognized the importance. Prescribing simple supplements, vitamins and minerals, have helped me immensely. My numbers started to normalize and I was on the road back to recovery.

I have been seeing Dr. Muth now for 18 years. Through the years she has helped me keep my Hashimoto's at bay. When I have had flare ups, she has readjusted medication. She has also helped me navigate menopause by doing testing and prescribing natural plant-based hormones.

The long and short of it is that our medical system is not a one fits all system. It has failed many many people, by being closed minded and not listening to patients. It relies heavily on pharmaceuticals. When pharmaceuticals really don't work for everyone. Most of the time they are just covering up symptoms and not curing anything.

When you are not feeling well you need to be an advocate for your own health. Thank God I had choices. I could seek out alternatives to our medical system with naturopathic practitioners like Dr. Muth. If you take that choice away, you will continue to fail people.

We need practitioners like Dr. Muth that listen, do labs of bloodwork and saliva test and look at the whole picture including nutrition. These practitioners also go to graduate school for a long time, just like MD's. As a society, we need to stop vilifying anyone that the Medical Association doesn't like! We need other choices.

Sincerely,

Ann Rodrigues

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. We will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

After being diagnosed with Moyamoya disease and receiving 2 successful cerebral bypasses. I then received the incorrect high dose influenza immunization and my cognition decreased. At 5'6" height and weight around 130lb, I slowly starting to drop to around 98lbs. I could barely walk; decreased appetite, and eventually found that I had to use assistive devices such as a walker or a wheelchair to attempt to be mobile. My cognition continued to decrease, it was getting hard to talk and/or read. At this time in my life I was in nursing school, and some mornings I could barely figure out how to put on my watch. I started seeing and hearing things, and I legitimately thought I was losing my mind. The school staff (excluding one nurse who stood up for me and ended up losing her job for doing so) made me take a leave of absence to figure out what was going on with my health. After going to multiple hospitals, even Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The doctor I saw at Mayo Clinic said I was being dramatic and doing these things for attention. This was beyond frustrating. I was in nursing school and all I wanted to do was to help other people get better, the only way I could do that was to get better myself. I then went to a naturopathic doctor. He is probably one of the most knowledgeable doctors I know to this day. If I ever asked him a question, he would be able to answer it, and make sure I completely understood it. At the end of each appointment there was a goal that we both had agreed on before the next appointment. He did quite a few labs and because of living in Wisconsin and a positive Lyme test (with a test that screens for more bands than the western blot making it more accurate), determined that the stress of Moyamoya disease and the incorrect high dose flu vaccine triggered chronic Lyme from tick(s) that had bitten me in the past. Within 1 month of regular visits with my doctor, eating healthy, I was able to start walking again, the hallucinations started to go away, I began putting healthy weight on again. My naturopathic doctor explained how everything was impacting me, and every time I said "I feel like I'm crazy" he would always reassure me that I wasn't. My naturopathic doctor said that although we want to treat the symptom to make you feel better, we ultimately want to treat the cause so this stops. The idea behind how naturopathic doctors is the way for treatment I believe how all medicine should be; keeping people healthy so they don't have to endure the disease at all. After being treated by my naturopathic doctor, I was able to finish my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at an accredited school at an accelerated pace. I do not think I would have been able to go back to finish school, earn my BSN, become a registered nurse and now be able to help people live a better quality of life every single day if it weren't for neuropathic doctors.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Rebekah Shellberg RN, BSN
32421 Academy Rd
Burlington WI 53105

Senator Stroebel: The purpose of this communication is to oppose 2021 Senate Bill 532 regarding proposed licensure of Naturopathic Doctors. I reside in West Bend and am your constituent.

This misguided proposed legislation is arbitrary and capricious. It is cunningly designed to "fence in" a select group of Naturopaths and to "fence out" numerous other experienced, competent, and caring Naturopaths who compete in the naturopathic medicine marketplace with the select practitioners and who the select wish to eliminate as competitors through restrictive state regulation.

Debra Muth, ND, NP, is one of the experienced, competent, and caring Naturopaths who might be forced out of the competitive marketplace were 2021 Senate Bill 532 to become law. Doctor Muth has provided me with expert and caring naturopathic medicine services for many years. In my six decades of life, I have dealt with many medical professionals. In my experience, Doctor Muth is by far one of the very best of those professionals.

Several MDs, including my primary care physician at the time, for years failed to diagnose a serious medical condition which was ailing me. I was told that my test results were in the "normal range". When I received a second opinion from Doctor Muth, she correctly diagnosed my condition. Doctor Muth prescribed necessary and appropriate medication for me which greatly improved my condition. I still take that prescription medication today.

Doctor Muth is a superb, highly trained, and diligent Naturopath. Please do not threaten to regulate her out of the naturopathic medicine business. 2021 Senate Bill 532 is a bad piece of proposed legislation. Please oppose it. 2021 Senate Bill 532 should not become law.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey P. Clark
2330 Chestnut Street #36
West Bend, WI 53095
414-897-2544
Jpclark54@icloud.com

Representative Gundrum: As a resident of West Bend, I am one of your constituents. My request to you as my representative in the State Assembly is that you oppose the proposed legislation known as 2021 Senate Bill 532 (Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors). My rationale to this misguided bill is spelled out in my below e-mail to my representative in the State Senate, Senator Stroebel. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey P. Clark
2330 Chestnut Street #36
West Bend, WI 53095
414-897-2544
Jpclark54@icloud.com

It has come to my attention that this bill would limit the ability of my Nurse Practitioner (Naturopathic Doctor) to treat me. Since I have received excellent care from Debra Muth I would like to voice my request that that Senate Bill 532 not be passed with regards to licensing of Naturopathic Doctors.

Dr. Muth has been my doctor for over 15 years. I began to see Dr. Muth with complaints with regards to allergies, low thyroid, and menopause. Several doctors advised me that my thyroid labs were fine. It was only Dr. Muth who treated the symptom which gave me back my health.

Over the intervening years Dr. Muth worked with me during my mobilization to Ft. Benning and then my current move to Tomah WI. My trust in Debra Muth keeps me seeing her regularly even though I drive 2.5 hours to see her. We have the same philosophy of care in that I believe that my health is my responsibility and the Dr. Muth supports my choices. This means that we work together to decide what treatment is in my control and when I need more from her. Her knowledge is extensive so I appreciate her tremendously. Since I live in Tomah now Dr. Muth also works with the Tomah VA provider to discuss treatment (when needed).

It is my personal best interest as well as her other patients for Dr. Muth, and other Naturopathic Doctors (ND), be able to retain their title of Naturopathic Doctor to continue with the excellent treatment we are being given.

I implore you not to pass Senate Bill 532

Kathryn Parker
905 Butts Ave
Tomah WI 54660
262-707-1981

Dear Representative Dittrich,

I am writing out of concern over Senate Bill 532. The care I have received from my Naturopathic Doctor has saved my health and perhaps my life. It is crucial for me and others like me that she continue her ability to practice as a Naturopathic Doctor.

In the Fall of 2015, at age 58, I was struck with a myriad of debilitating ailments that threatened my ability to function with any sense of normality. Over the course of a few short weeks I experienced bone and joint pain, muscle aches, migraines, vision issues, hearing impairment, brain fog, speech issues, memory loss and fatigue that made it difficult to get out of bed to go lay on the couch. Prior to these onsets I was in remarkable shape for my age. Almost overnight I was practically an invalid. Unable to function normally, I was forced to quit work, which unfortunately became an early retirement without benefit of any disability support (that is another story).

My Primary Care physician had me tested for Lyme Disease. It came back positive. After the standard 10-day regimen of doxycycline antibiotic, my health hardly improved. My Primary Care physician then sent me to an Infectious Disease Specialist. My hope for a quick treatment cure was crushed when he told me he didn't know what to do for me, other than what my PC physician had already done. A deep dive on the internet didn't lend a lot of promise for me. For example, in a podcast of Lyme experts, one world leading Lyme Disease expert in Florida revealed that his average patient had seen 14 doctors before coming to his care. Not wanting to repeat that statistic, I searched for a Lyme specialist closer to my home in Oconomowoc. It was a life saving find for me to discover Debra Muth, ND in Waukesha.

Dr. Muth and her team did an exhaustive dig into my medical history and determined I had probably carried the Lyme bacteria for 10-12 years or more. My immune system had held it mostly at bay until it was finally overcome and the infection literally exploded throughout my body. Dr. Muth applied me through a regimen of antibiotics off and on over the next two years. She also convinced me of the crucial role of diet and careful selection of herbal supplements with antimicrobial properties, with special attention to the importance of gut health. She monitored hormones and organ systems for the deleterious effects from the disease. She didn't just treat symptoms but drove to the root causes. She combined knowledge of Western Medicine with the benefits of herbs and natural substances for a holistic treatment of the disease.

Lyme is a very complex disease when it has time to take hold in the human body. It has the ability to transform back and forth into forms and tissues enabling it to effectively hide from the human immune system while it waits for another opportunity to surface. With an entrenched Lyme infection, antibiotics are beneficial but not enough. I am convinced the antibiotics helped me, but without the use of carefully selected herbal supplements recommended by my Naturopath, I am confident I would not have returned to good health. My Lyme disease has been chased into submission and I have regained most of the health I lost. I am confident that I likely would not have received the comprehensive level of care I received from my Naturopath and her team.

Dr. Muth's knowledge, training, focus and experience quite probably saved my life. No doubt she has helped dozens, if not hundreds of others in the same fashion, as well as patients with other chronic ailments. But if Senate Bill 532 curtails her ability to apply her expertise and knowledge, countless other Lyme sufferers may very well not receive the amazing care I have received. Dr. Muth has earned the title of Doctor. She, and other Naturopaths like her, deserve the Licensure they so deserve.

I am humbly asking for your support for Naturopathic Doctors' and their rightful place in the medical community.

Respectfully,

James A Learned
2320 N Daystar Ln
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
jimlearned@wi.rr.com
(262)470-4747 - mobile

Dear Senator Carpenter:

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 532 so that my naturopathic doctor (ND) can continue her medical practice, as she has been doing safely and effectively for the past 20 years.

My name is Katie Sanders, I'm 25, and I live in Milwaukee. I first sought naturopathic care from Dr. Debra Muth, ND, in October 2015. I was suffering from digestive issues that were only getting worse—sometimes to the point that I would be doubled over with terrible stomach cramps. Dr. Muth put me on a natural supplement that really helps my digestive enzymes. She also ordered tests to check for possible food sensitivities, which revealed what foods I need to avoid so my gut heals. My other major problem at the time was severe feminine itching and burning that no one had resolved. But Dr. Muth tested my hormone levels and prescribed the safest form of hormones (bio identical) to balance my levels. The best part is she also invented and prescribed a unique compound cream that FINALLY cured my prolonged, extreme discomfort!

Because of Dr. Muth, my two siblings, myself, and my mom have been diagnosed with Lyme disease and treated for it—both of which our traditional doctors never did for us. My oldest sister's Lyme is in remission, and she has her life back—a very active one. My second sister has suffered the most horribly because for FIVE YEARS, traditional doctors had no answers or appropriate treatments for her. Under Dr. Muth's care, my sister finally received correct diagnoses and many natural treatments that are allowing her to have a progressively more normal life.

We grow more and more amazed at how much Dr. Muth knows about the entire human body and how everything works together. Unlike traditional doctors, she doesn't bandaid symptoms; she digs to the root cause. She also doesn't treat physical problems in isolation; she takes into account how a specific issue is causing a domino effect in the body. Her knowledge of herbs, drugs, and chronic illness is absolutely phenomenal.

Don't take our doctor away from us. Please protect my family—and many others like us who depend on NDs—by voting NO on Senate Bill 532. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Katie Sanders

3035 South 49th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53219
414-327-8793
sanderskatie1996@protonmail.com

Dear Senator Carpenter:

I am writing to urge you to turn down Senate Bill 532, the bill that will prohibit my naturopathic doctor from continuing to provide me with the care I need.

My name is Rachel Sanders and I'm 27 years old. I live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

When I was 17, I became bedridden with severe, non-stop headaches. After several years of going to numerous MDs and being prescribed medications that only made me sicker, I went to my first ND. There, instead of just prescribing toxic pills to cover my symptoms, she looked deeper, at the root of my issue. That's when it was discovered I had Lyme Disease.

I started going to Dr. Debra Muth, ND, six years ago for treatment of my Lyme Disease. Because it went undiagnosed by traditional doctors for so long, my Lyme is much harder to treat. And because my body has been fighting this disease for so long, I developed adrenal insufficiency, diagnosed by Dr. Muth. This means that my adrenals don't produce normal amounts of adrenaline, making me unable to do many normal tasks. I've been further diagnosed by her with various co-infections that are common with those who have Lyme.

Since being under her care, I have received expert treatment and care. My never-ending migraines have completely disappeared. The severe muscle pain I constantly felt has vanished. And though I am still affected by my adrenal insufficiency, I am doing things I never thought would be possible: I can go for walks in the neighborhood; I can prepare meals and clean; I am actively involved in a nonprofit ministry I co-founded. My quality of life has improved 1000%.

Dr. Muth holds a Ph.D. and has proved to be highly trained and knowledgeable. Not once under her care has she ever harmed me. Quite the contrary. If this bill passes, she will not be able to give me the continued care I need on my journey to complete health—all because she didn't attend a certain school and is deemed "unsafe," a basis which is completely unfounded. How unfair to Dr. Muth to take away her ability to practice after doctoring well for 20 years. And how damaging to me, and others like me, who depend on the unparalleled and indispensable care naturopaths give us.

Thank you for reading my story and for your consideration on this matter, Senator Carpenter. In closing, let me underscore again Dr. Muth's safety in continuing to be allowed to practice. I urge you to stand with me and oppose Senate Bill 532. I, and countless others, are counting on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Rachel L. Sanders

3035 South 49th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53219
thesethreefaithhopelove@gmail.com
(414) 600-9212

My name is Beth Sanders, and I am writing to you regarding SB 532 as it relates to the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors. As one of your constituents, I wish to express my deep concerns over this bill and to urge you to turn it down.

For the last 10 years, my family and I have been directly affected by Lyme disease. My younger sister first fell ill in December 2011 with unexplained headaches that were so severe as to keep her bedridden for weeks at a time. Later, other debilitating symptoms emerged that, like the headaches, also prevented her from being able to function normally, including finishing her high school education. Every doctor that we tried to see at the onset of my sister's illness was a licensed medical practitioner through Aurora Health Care. But for about four years, no one could figure out what was truly wrong with my sister. She was first diagnosed with migraines, then with chronic fatigue syndrome, and none of the medications prescribed for these conditions alleviated her symptoms.

As time went on, our frustrations with Western medicine's failure to diagnose and treat my sister increased. Thankfully, in October 2015, we were able to locate a naturopathic doctor in Waukesha – Dr. Debra Muth of Serenity Health Care Center. Dr. Muth was able to correctly diagnose my sister with Lyme disease through accurate testing. It was a relief to finally have an answer for the difficulties my sister had suffered after all those years!

Not only has Dr. Muth treated my younger sister, but she has also treated my mother, my youngest sister, and myself for Lyme disease. About eight years ago, I – like my sister – also struggled with fatigue issues, to the point of tiring easily after doing just a few hours' worth of light work. I also struggled with digestive and hormonal issues caused by Lyme disease. But because of Dr. Muth's care, I have been able to regain my energy and much of my health! For the past several years, I have been "in remission" from Lyme and in the meantime, I have put myself through college and am now working full time. Since my family and I first started seeing her for treatment, Dr. Muth has been hugely instrumental in helping us to get back on the road to experiencing better health and living more fulfilling and "normal" lives.

SB 532 labels individuals who practice naturopathic medicine (like Dr. Muth) as unsafe, but this statement is simply not true. Dr. Muth has not caused my family any harm or put our health at risk in any way; rather, she has done us much good in the six years we have been going to her for treatment. She is well-educated, having earned her Ph.D., and she continues her extensive education by staying up-to-date on current medical issues so she can better diagnose and treat her clients. Although she has not attended the particular schools listed in SB 532, Dr. Muth is more than qualified to continue practicing as a naturopathic doctor. She has been practicing successfully for the last 20 years!

If SB 532 were to pass, Dr. Muth would be one of about 100 naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin who would no longer be allowed to practice medicine. She – and all the other

naturopaths in our state – would be restricted from even using the titles “Naturopathic Doctor,” “ND,” or “Naturopath.” In Dr. Muth’s own words, she “[doesn’t] care about titles,” but what she does care about is this: “provid[ing] high-quality care to my clients” and “not being able to deliver the type of medicine that I believe in with my entire heart.” If SB 532 were to pass, Dr. Muth would no longer be able to help people like my family who are suffering from chronic illness. She would no longer be able to prescribe various kinds of testing to determine what conditions her patients are dealing with, and thus what course of treatment would be best for them to take. She would also no longer be able to recommend supplements, herbs, and other natural means (in addition to conventional prescriptions, such as antibiotics) to nurse those people back to health.

Representative Riemer, I share my family’s situation and experiences with you because if SB 532 passes and naturopaths in Wisconsin are forced to be licensed in order to practice medicine, my family’s care will be directly impacted and severely restricted. We do not want to lose Dr. Muth as our doctor. We need her! And there are many others like us in Wisconsin who depend upon the services of naturopathic doctors like Dr. Muth.

I urge you to consider all that I have written here against SB 532. I urge you to do what is in the best interest of all the people of Wisconsin by helping to turn down this bill. Please let naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin continue to practice medicine and to help people as they have done for so long.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Miss Beth T. Sanders

3035 S. 49th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53219-3308
beth.theanna@protonmail.com
(414) 687-8486

September, 21, 2121

Re: Serenity Health Care Center, Dr. Muth

To whom this may concern,

My name is Jeanie Ward, I am 54 years old, and I am writing to you on behalf of Serenity Health Care Center, Waukesha, WI in regards to Debra Muth and her staff.

Dr. Muth's knowledge is profound, and her caring demeanor is exceptional. The staff is well educated and hold a professional repor.

Dr. Muth treated myself, and my daughter for lyme disease, and her knowledge and treatments improved our health immensely. I cannot thank this establishment enough, for improving our health.

My daughter was extremely sick, was bed ridden and struggling. Dr. Muth improved her health so much, she is now body building, attending College at Western Michigan, to get a degree to be a Dietician, in hopes to get into the same line of work as Dr. Muth, & her staff, who helped her get well. She was recently added to the Dean's list and is doing very well.

I developed symptoms in 1990 and with the guidance & treatment of Dr. Muth, & her staff, I became well, going on 10 mile bike rides, and working 2 jobs again.

I cannot stress the profound improvement our lives became with the care of Serenity Health Care Center & Dr. Muth's knowledge.

Respectfully,

Jeanie Ward

239 Wellington Dr.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815-322-3771

Patient Testimonial on behalf of Dr. Debra Muth

Our son, who is 16 years old, receives care from a Naturopath – Dr. Debra Muth, as well as other medical providers. Dr. Muth takes a comprehensive history and uses test results that supports the care and treatment she provides. She also recognizes the input of his other health care providers, including his pediatrician, to gain multiple perspectives with regards to our son's care.

Prior to receiving care from a Naturopath, our son received prescriptions from many medical doctors for antibiotics and steroids for various illnesses; he was chronically ill. He suffered from recurring sinus infections and respiratory infections, including bronchitis and pneumonia. He went through many tests, especially asthma tests, and was prescribed RX medications and inhalers from the pediatrician, pulmonologist, and immunologist. None of the RX medications or inhalers helped. He also had ER visits due to his respiratory issues.

Because our son's chronic illness was affecting his quality of life in a significant way with many missed school days, the inability to play sports, and more, we sought additional care from Naturopaths, including Dr. Debra Muth. It was determined that we needed to improve the function of his immune system and reduce inflammation and exposure to toxins in his environment. These improvements required changing his nutrition and using supplements to improve the function of his immune system. We also identified exposure to toxins that were affecting his health.

Our son's health has dramatically improved because Dr. Muth along with other Naturopaths who helped us to identify the correct nutrition plan, which our son began in January 2019 and continues to follow on a daily basis. He eats an anti-inflammatory diet that is organic consisting of meats, vegetables, and fruits. Dr. Muth also provides the required knowledge about supplements so that the dosing is correct and not based only because of a label on a bottle. We are confident that the supplements that he takes are quality ones and needed, because his supplements are re-evaluated and minimized to only the necessary ones when we have appointments. His nutrition along with the supplements made a difference and resulted in RX medications being eliminated or reduced. He is able to work, play sports, and attend school.

Recently, when our son developed a GI issue, Dr. Muth was the only health care provider who took it seriously and ran a test to determine the cause of the GI issue. Other medical providers told us to lessen his consumption of vegetables and to take over-the-counter treatments. Dr. Muth discovered that a bacterial infection existed. He received treatment and recovered fully because of her attention to his care.

We need access to all types of health care providers, including Naturopaths, especially now with Covid-19. Naturopaths should not be restricted at this crucial time when access to health care is decreasing, especially when we need to focus on improving the quality of our health by preventing illness, not simply treating disease.

Rebecca Leichtfuss, Ph.D.



Attn: Wisconsin State Senators:

Kathleen Bernier, Mary Felzkowski, Janis A. Ringhand, and Lena Taylor
Reference Senate Bill 532, Naturopathic Doctor Credentialing

September 20, 2021

Dear Honorable Wisconsin State Senators Bernier, Felzhowski, Ringhand, and Taylor,

I can't begin to imagine what the state of health my family would be in without the guidance of the naturopath practitioners we have utilized over the years. When my son was diagnosed with Tourette's at the age of 11, he was subjected at the hands of MDs to a series of assorted neuroleptic medications typically prescribed for schizophrenia or bipolar conditions to mask the severe tics he experienced. He experienced a boomerang with each med; at first, they masked the condition, then they would come back angrier than they began. The MDs would then add tranquilizers or anti-depressants. My son was so heavily sedated, he was like a walking zombie; he additionally gained a lot of weight, gynecomastia occurred (breast enlargement in males), and he frequently mentioned suicide which is now a known side effect of these types of medications in children. It was an ND who addressed the Tourette's by addressing yeast overgrowth in his system by treating him with a yeast free diet and anti-fungal medication. The change was remarkable to watch, and in 3 months when he attended football practice, his coaches could not believe he was the same child, the tics 95% gone, the weight gone, the mental clarify back. NDs address system balance rather than bandage the symptoms.

This same child had considerable weird symptoms beginning at about the age of 13 (joint pain, fatigue, and brain fog throughout high school. After seeing a multitude of different kinds of endocrinology subspecialists who ordered diverse tests in an attempt to figure out what was going on. All dead ends, until we reached out to an ND who immediately suspected Lyme based on the symptoms, knew that there was a particular test site that was known to have accurate testing, captured the positive result we needed, and treatment began. It took a year of oral antibiotic treatment and 18 months of picc line IV antibiotics to clear his system. Because of our penniless financial status, this ND also went out of her way to find a pharmaceutical company to donate the appropriate antibiotics to enable my son to heal.

It is an ND who has enabled my dysfunctional hormonal system (no periods until the age of 17, adenomyosis, polycystic ovary syndrome) to find the balance it never had prior to her exploration of my hormone imbalances.

NDs traditionally dance both sides of the fence, utilizing both traditional medicine and alternatives. Priceless. I can't begin to express how grateful I am for NDs who think outside the box and address the

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body as a system that is lacking balance rather than cover up an isolated symptom. Certainly not all NDs have high levels of scruples, any more than all MDs do. It has always been and will always be up to patients to do their homework when seeking a practitioner. It is worth noting that NDs likely get the majority of their patients through referrals from other patients.

As a woman who considers herself blessed to having experienced the critical care of NDs multiple times related to my health and the health of my extended family, I strongly encourage the Wisconsin Senate to respect the needs of those of us who find our NDs priceless to our health care. As a founder of a global women's health nonprofit who spends endless hours guiding women through the maze of pelvic organ prolapse, I assure the Senate I hear a considerable degree of conversation in our space about the value of the ND.

The evolution of healthcare is diverse. The primary care practitioners of yesteryear were physicians with little black bags who came to your home to address the needs of the entire family. Very personal one on one communications were cornerstone, and a plethora of herbs as pharmaceuticals was the norm. The NDS of today, while not carrying little black bags and no longer come into your home, come close to mirroring what was good, and pure, and truly holistic about healthcare in the past, to provide the balanced healthcare so critical in today's health environment.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrie Palm".

Sherrie Palm, Founder
Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support
Cell: 262-441-0488
Personal e: sjpalm@wi.rr.com

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Federal ID# 27-3737815

September 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brandon Hess, and I'm a 24-year-old resident of Waterford, WI. I'm writing today to share my care experience at Serenity Healthcare Center, which is a naturopathic provider based in Waukesha, WI.

My condition developed in the months leading up to August 2020, when I experienced a plethora of odd symptoms—starting with intense anxiety which would later become my chief complaint, and which is historically unlike myself. Following shortly thereafter, I developed frequent muscle twitching, night sweats and insomnia, a tingling feeling deep in the side of my head, and brain fog...I could go on. I was distressed by many of these symptoms, yet they were strangely familiar to me. Several years prior, my father experienced many of the same symptoms before eventually arriving at a Lyme Disease diagnosis. He was initially dismissed by many doctors and primary care physicians who had even tested him for this condition but produced a false negative, even with the most widely used diagnostic methods. He would go on to be suspected for Multiple Sclerosis, Lupus, Fibromyalgia, and Arthritis, but never finding any relief from his symptoms. Eventually, it was a ND who was able to correctly diagnose and treat him, and he feels much better today. After seeing my father's struggle, when I experienced many of the same symptoms, a visit with a ND seemed like the logical place to start.

Under the care of Amy Hoffman, NP at Serenity Healthcare Center, I was ultimately tested, diagnosed, and treated for the same condition: Lyme Disease. I, too, feel much better today than when I originally sought care. I strongly believe this is due to my integrative treatment plan which involved not only prescription medications (such as antibiotics), but also natural supplements for neurological/digestive health and detoxification. Admittedly, there were times when it was hard to find natural relief from all the symptoms I was experiencing. That said, I felt my treatment plan quickly adapted when needed. In my humble perception, naturopathic providers can maintain a closer relationship with patients than PCPs. For instance, I can quite literally text Serenity Healthcare's phone line with new symptoms or questions about my treatment and have a response in short order, whereas I most certainly cannot connect with my PCP like that. Because of this open line of communication, we arrived at a comprehensive and effective treatment plan.

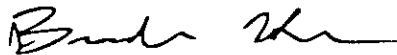
If a particular component of treatment was not working, Amy and her colleague Dr. Muth were knowledgeable and quick to suggest alternative herbs and supplements we could try. I also underwent periodic testing (CMP, CBC, and other similar tests that may be ordered by a PCP) to ensure my body was responding OK to treatment. Likewise, if I presented with any new symptoms or complaints along the way, Amy performed due diligence lab work to ensure I had not developed a more serious condition. Despite what may be seen as a trial-and-error process to find the right natural remedies, I don't think my experience was conceptually unique. Even with conditions that mimic mine—such as anxiety disorder—many who seek help from licensed health professionals often go through a similar trial & error process before landing on a prescription drug that can provide relief. I wholeheartedly believe my provider to be knowledgeable and practicing in a safe/responsible manner to treat an underlying cause and its symptoms, while simultaneously ruling out other causes that may be beyond their scope of care.

Last but not least, I believe medical care is a highly personal decision. My decision to seek naturopathic care was partially informed by my father's experience, but also by the preference that I didn't want to be dependent on any prescription medications long-term. As mentioned previously, my chief complaint

was crippling anxiety. Unfortunately, in my generation, generalized anxiety disorder also seems to be a fairly common condition. Based on past interactions with my PCP, I strongly feared that all my symptoms would be chalked up to this common condition, and I'd be sent on my way with an anti-anxiety prescription. Yet, I have seen the way those types of medications can adversely impact others amongst my friends and family, and I didn't want to take those risks myself. I also was not ready to accept that I had suddenly developed anxiety when I never had it before, and further become dependent on a prescription to treat it. While I rejected a prescriptive course of treatment initially, I always knew I could make an appointment with my PCP if I could not find relief from a more natural route. In my case, it turned out the root condition was not even generalized anxiety, but rather Lyme Disease. Again, I am happy to report acceptable relief from supplements, herbs, and short-term prescriptions, but I also believe that a naturopath and PCP can still be mutually exclusive if a patient is not seeing acceptable progress in themselves. I believe people are their own biggest advocates, and they should be able to use any safe method at their disposal to receive the medical treatment they need. Given the naturopathic care I've received over the past year or so for my condition and the resulting progress, I have no reason to doubt its safety or the responsibility entrusted to those who provide it.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my story.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Hess", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandon Hess

My name is Kathi Sabby.

I have been a patient of Dr. Deb for over 15 years.

I needed to continue my healthcare when my previous ND retired. He hand-picked her to replace him.

My continued care consists of monitoring my hormones due to an adrenal gland disorder and chronic fatigue. In the beginning of being diagnosed I was extremely tired all the time.

Through Dr. Deb's care and her knowledge of chronic illnesses, herbs, and Bioidentical Hormone therapy I have energy to live my life and work.

I trust Dr. Deb for her expertise in my health care. Thank you, Dr. Deb.

Kathi Sabby

To Whom It May Concern:

Debra Muth has been my care provider for over 10 years. She has helped me tremendously in treating serious health issues. She has over 25 years of experience and is very qualified doing what she does as an ND. She needs to be treated as equally as other Doctors do. I do not want my care under her to be in jeopardy or threatened to be taken away. This bill SHOULD NOT be allowed to pass. There are many others like myself that rely on her expertise in herbs and supplements to treat our conditions and get our lives back to normal. Without her knowledge as an ND, I wouldn't be where I am today. She is the best in my eyes, and I want her to be able to continue doing what she knows best – helping others get well. To suggest she is unsafe is utterly not true.

Joan

There is a bill AB532 that is being presented to license naturopaths in the state and recognize them as primary care practitioners. Although I am aware of the physician shortage our country is facing I do not feel that this bill serves to correct this problem.

Naturopaths are primarily trained in natural methods and lifestyle healing modalities. They are proud to be drugless practitioners. There are approximately 10 naturopaths requesting licensing as medical doctors. Within this request for licensing they are asking for the ability to prescribe medications and perform minor surgical procedures, interpret MRI, CT and X-rays and pronounce people deceased. Having worked with naturopaths as a client this is not the expertise I have sought them out for. I have worked with them because of their skills in natural medicine, the ability to think outside the box and provide a different alternative to healing. The majority of naturopaths in the state are not looking for this degree of licensing.

If this passes as it is currently written 20+ Naturopaths will no longer be able to practice within their scope and training. We will not be allowed to use the title naturopath, naturopathic doctor, ND or anything remotely close to what their degrees prepared them for. It is easy to see it is just a title but titles mean something not just to the person who earned it but to the people they treat.

These naturopaths will be fenced out and will be forced to close our practices. This group is saying no they will be able to practice but according to how the bill is written they would be practicing without a license which is illegal.

So much of our healthcare is determined by our insurance companies, what they will allow, they make the decisions on our care, what treatments they will cover. For those of us that seek out alternative care, the NP's provide additional resource to treat our diseases. On a personal note, my wife had sought out a Naturapathic Oncologist to treat her cancer. Unfortunately we could not find one in Wisconsin. We found a wonderful doctor out of state that was able to help her with her treatment. When she got diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer her doctor here told her that she would do well to make it 2 years. Well I have no doubt that the additional treatment she received from the Naturapathic Oncologist allowed her to extend her life for 4 ½ years.

I am urging you to vote against this bill AB 532 and tell them to work on a resolution of grandfather language that will allow current naturopaths to practice and keep their businesses. For the future new regulations can require a different education.

Thank you for your time and consideration

John Peskie
N24W24040 Brandon Oaks dr Unit A
Pewaukee, WI 53072

September 20, 2021

Dear Senator Stoebel,

My name is Alaina Deery. I live in Cedarburg, WI. I am old enough to vote now.

Please vote no on Bill 532 taking away my doctor. I spent so many years suffering from chronic illness. No one understood what was wrong with me until I met Dr. Muth. My mom and dad found her for me since I was only 11 years old at the time. I'm glad they did because she was the first person who finally listened to me and made me feel better. She made me feel important, like I really mattered. She didn't want to see me miss out on life anymore. All the nurses and people who work at her clinic are good to me. I feel safe there.

I am healthy now. I can play sports again and I can do things that I thought I might never do. She still watches my lab work and prescribes medicine and supplements that keep me well. I listen to her recommendations about eating and nutrition more than I did to my own mom! I was robbed of a lot of years of normal teenage fun. I couldn't even attend college because my immune system was not strong. Thanks to Dr. Muth, I can go to class now and I don't get sick like I used to.

I need her. I do not want my doctor taken away. I already lost so much and worked hard with her to get it back. Please let her keep taking care of me and everyone else.

Thank you very much,

Alaina Deery

September 20, 2021

Dear Senator Stroebel,

My name is Patrick Deery. I live in Cedarburg, WI, and am a voter in your district. I am writing today regarding Bill 532. Please turn down this bill.

Dr. Debra Muth is my Naturopathic Doctor. She is one in a million as far as I'm concerned. I was less than impressed with the amount of time and attention I was receiving from my PCP. My wife and daughter were receiving excellent care from Dr. Muth and her team, so I went to her when I decided to pay closer attention to my health here at mid-life.

She has an extensive resume' and has spent years increasing her knowledge base and practical experience. I can't understand why anyone of her caliber would be hedged out by this bill. She has me in tip-top shape, feeling like I'm in my twenties again, and off all medications. Her vast knowledge of supplements and herbs has allowed me to reach for something natural before turning to pharmaceuticals. My blood pressure was high, and it has come down beautifully without drugs. She agreeably works in partnership with my other doctors. I have a solid circle of care that includes her and her remarkable group.

I owe her a debt of gratitude. I am a healthier man for having been sent her way. I want to keep it that way. Again, please vote no.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service.

Patrick Deery

Letter for Wednesday 9/29 Hearing

Nicole Deery <nicoleddeery505@gmail.com>

Tue 9/28/2021 5:01 PM

To: Jenn Austin <Jaustin@serenityhealthcarecenter.com>

Nicole Deery
N44W6033 Hamilton Road #202
Cedarburg, WI 53012

September 20, 2021

The Honorable Duey Stroebel
18 South State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Stroebel:

My name is Nicole Deery. I reside at N44W6033 Hamilton Road, #202, in Cedarburg, WI. I am a constituent in your district.

I am writing to you today to request that you turn down Bill 532, thereby preserving my doctor, Dr. Debra Muth's, ability to practice Naturopathic medicine.

In 2010, I experienced a health crisis that I hope no one else will ever endure. I spent time, money and tears in the revolving doors of traditional medical offices searching for answers, only to come up empty. I turned to Naturopathic medicine because I was desperate to function normally again and return to a quality life. I specifically chose Dr. Debra Muth because she had a long-standing history and reputation in the community. My chiropractor had recommended her, and my pharmacist referred me to her as well because many of his customers were incredibly pleased with her care. After researching her vast experience and credentials, she stood out glaringly apart from her colleagues, so I placed my life in her capable and caring hands.

Eleven years later, I am experiencing vibrant health thanks to Dr. Muth and her team. Her knowledge of modern medicine, chronic illness, supplements and herbs, and nutrition, just to name a few, is unparalleled. I owe my life, and the lives of my family members who are also under her care, to Dr. Muth. I need her to maintain the title she worked so tirelessly to earn and practiced behind with intelligence and integrity. Without her, my health and wellbeing will be irreversibly compromised. Please do not remove her ability to treat patients like me and restore them back to wellness.

I am deeply thankful for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Deery

Nancy Mistele Testimony in opposition to SB 532
Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry
Hearing Date: September 29, 2021

- Senator Felzkowski (Chair)
- Senator Stafsholt (Vice-Chair)
- Senator Jagler
- Senator L. Taylor
- Senator Ringhand

Thank you, Senator Felzkowski and committee members, for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of currently practicing Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin that other practitioners are asking you to ***deny the right to work.***

My name is Nancy Mistele and I spent 7 years working as a Director in the Office of Business Development for Governor Scott Walker. In that role I helped many business owners get government to work for them, not against them.

I was fortunate to work with many members of the Legislature and extend my thanks for the significant reforms made to the Administrative Rule Making Process.

We worked with the Small Business Regulatory Review Board and agency leaders to ensure accurate interpretation of rules and were instrumental in seeing fines and notices of violation rescinded that had been inappropriately levied against businesses.

Often, we were simply asking agencies to be responsive to constituents in a timely manner. For instance, I once helped a business owner get a driveway permit from the DOT in 2 weeks - a permit they had been working on for over 2 years!

I witnessed firsthand the difficulties experienced by people seeking licensure and the problems created by agencies making rules they deemed appropriate without any conversation with business owners to understand the ramifications of these changes.

We successfully brought business owners to the table to work together (even when they were at odds with each other) and with agencies on statute or rule changes that worked for ALL parties, not just a few.

With that as my background, I'm here as a friend of business, having known Dr. Angela Rahm for close to 10 years. We met when a mutual friend was struggling with a serious health condition. After many "traditional medicine" treatments were unsuccessful, Barbara sought out naturopathic therapies. As a friend of both women, I observed the thoughtful diligence that Angela showed in seeking appropriate options for Barb and the loving care she provided her throughout this time.

To think that she and others who have devoted their lives to the health and wellbeing of others based on the school they attended or the hours of training they have pursued is ludicrous.

The WNDA is stating this bill will increase the number of primary doctors in the state, but they are actually removing at least a 1/3 if not more of the currently practicing NDs in the state.

If you allow this to go forward, you'll be taking Legislative action to reduce the number of working professionals in Wisconsin at a time when the size of our workforce is in need of expansion not contraction.

If you recognize the changes requested by this group you would instantly fence out this very well educated and successful group of ND's from continuing their practice and the care they give, affecting thousands of patients who for years have trusted these NDs with their family's health.

If you recognize the changes requested by this group, you would be instantly negating the curriculum developed by professionals at various naturopathic schools across the country without study.

If you recognize the changes requested by this group, you would be ignoring the countless hours of time spent in education and continuing education by other ND's.

Furthermore, you'll eliminate the value of thousands of dollars they have already spent for offices, equipment and further education as they develop their practice.

Most contested legislation is passed through a series of communications with all parties to attempt to find agreed upon and workable solutions that provide a pathway to success for all.

These ND's have the unfortunate position of many of the healthcare associations who are not against licensure, but were forced to oppose this legislation simply due to the failure of the WNDA to engage in discussions or negotiate in good faith with a majority of the affected parties to at least attempt to obtain workable solutions.

Esteemed members of this committee, I ask that you send SB 532 back to the drawing board in light of all of the facts that you're hearing today. Without question, the current bill must be amended to grandfather all current NDs with established practices in Wisconsin. Do not allow the Legislature to be used to pit one group against another within a profession. Require the WNDA and other ND's to work together in development of an agreement that works for all.

Thank you.

Nancy Mistele
4607 Deerpath Rd.
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 575-8589