



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB 529: Regulation and Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors, Creating a Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board

Testimony of State Representative Jessie Rodriguez

Assembly Committee on Health

January 6, 2022

Thank you Chairman Sanfelippo, Ranking Member Subeck, and members of the Assembly Committee on Health for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 529 (AB 529), legislation that seeks to license Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) and regulate their practice. I am asking you today to consider Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 529, which is a substitute amendment I am offering with Senator Bernier after bringing more people to the table on this bill.

The substitute amendment makes the following changes:

- Expands grandfathering language to include more limited-scope naturopathic doctors
- Clarifies that the bill does not prohibit a traditional or lay naturopath from assuming the title “naturopath”
- Clarifies language that naturopathic doctors are prohibited from performing chiropractic or spinal adjustments
- Prohibits NDs from prescribing prescription drugs

The substitute amendment retains the original intent of the bill of allowing naturopathic doctors to be licensed in our state.

Under current law, naturopathic doctors licensed in other states, yet practicing in Wisconsin, are precluded from diagnosing and treating conditions, conducting physical exams, and ordering labs or imaging. Yet, all of these practices are within the scope of the education and training received 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.

The bill as amended 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



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

This bill will provide for patient safety by establishing the Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board under the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), 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 within the scope defined in the bill will allow them to provide a greater standard of patient care. 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 25 states and jurisdictions. In doing so, we can allow patients the opportunity to confidently choose naturopathic care.

Lastly, I have attached a memo from the Legislative Council further detailing the differences between the original bill and the substitute amendment for your review. I encourage your support for this legislation. Thank you for your time. I welcome any questions you may have.

Wisconsin Legislative Council



Anne Sappenfield
Director

TO: SENATOR KATHY BERNIER AND REPRESENTATIVE JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

FROM: Margit Kelley, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: Description of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to 2021 Senate Bill 532 and Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 2021 Assembly Bill 529

DATE: January 3, 2022

This memorandum briefly describes 2021 Senate Bill 532 and the companion bill 2021 Assembly Bill 529 (collectively, “the bill”), relating to licensure of naturopathic doctors, and the proposed changes in Senate Substitute Amendment 1 and the companion Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 (collectively, the “substitute amendment”).

THE BILL

The bill creates a new licensed occupation for naturopathic medicine, to be administered by a Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board.

The bill creates two categories of licensed naturopathic practice:

- **A licensed naturopathic doctor (ND)** who has a doctoral degree from a U.S. or Canadian program accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, and meets other professional requirements. The person may use the titles ND, NMD, naturopathic doctor, or naturopathic medical doctor. A licensed ND may diagnose and treat, order clinical laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging studies, perform minor procedures, prescribe certain drugs, and sign certificates.
- **A licensed limited scope ND** who has a doctoral degree from a naturopathic medical program completed before 2003, with at least 1,500 training hours, and meets other professional requirements. The person may use the title ND or naturopathic doctor. A licensed limited scope ND may diagnose and treat and order limited laboratory tests, but may not order diagnostic imaging studies, perform minor procedures, prescribe any drugs, or sign certificates.

A license must be renewed every two years, and continuing education requirements are to be established by administrative rules.

The bill also recognizes a third category of naturopathic practice, which is not licensed. A **traditional or lay naturopath** is not prohibited from practicing without a license, and the bill does not impose any educational requirements for that practice. Under the bill, a person may provide advice regarding the use of therapy, including herbal medicine, homeopathy, nutrition, or other nondrug or nonsurgical therapy, and may practice within the scope of other credentialing held by the person, such as a

registered nurse, acupuncturist, or massage therapist. The person is not prohibited from using the title “naturopath.”

Under the bill, a practitioner in any of the three categories may not use the word “physician” in connection with the person’s title. A practitioner who is a licensed ND or licensed limited scope ND may use the word “doctor,” but only in conjunction with the word “naturopathic.”

SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT

The substitute amendment largely retains this licensing structure for an ND, with the changes described below.

Use of Titles

The substitute amendment removes the authority for a licensed ND to use the title NMD or naturopathic medical doctor, and removes references to “naturopathic medical doctor” or “naturopathic physician” as used in the context of certain ND practices. The substitute amendment also adds a statement that naturopathic medicine is distinct from the practice of medicine and surgery.

For a traditional or lay naturopath, rather than simply not prohibiting the use of the title, the substitute amendment explicitly states that a practitioner may use the title “naturopath.”

Prescribing Authority

The substitute amendment removes the authority for a licensed ND to prescribe any drugs, but specifies that a licensed ND may recommend, dispense, and administer nonprescription drug products.

Licensed Limited Scope ND

As noted above, the bill provides that a person may apply for a limited scope ND license if the person has a doctoral degree from a naturopathic medical program completed before 2003, with at least 1,500 training hours, and meets other professional requirements. The application must be submitted within three years of the bill becoming law.

The substitute amendment revises the application requirements to allow a degree in doctor of naturopathy to be completed before 2013, rather than 2003, and adds a requirement that the person must have continually practiced naturopathic medicine in Wisconsin for at least 10 years immediately prior to the application.

The substitute amendment also removes the 1,500-hour training requirement and specifies that any of the following four options may meet the training requirements:

- At least 250 hours of education in two or more clinical sciences addressing body systems and their interactions, cardiology, psychology, dermatology, endocrinology, EENT, gastroenterology, immunology, urology, proctology, gynecology, neurology, orthopedics, pulmonology, natural childbirth and obstetrics, pediatrics, geriatrics, rheumatology, oncology, and hematology.
- Licensure as a registered nurse under state law as of the date of application.
- At least 250 hours of qualifying training in clinical sciences after completion of a doctor of naturopathy program, or a combination of at least 250 hours of education and subsequent training in clinical sciences.

- Agreement to complete at least 250 hours of qualifying training, or a combination of at least 250 hours of education and subsequent training in clinical sciences, within five years after issuance of an initial license.

Additionally, the substitute amendment requires an application for a limited scope ND license to be submitted within one year after the board begins accepting applications, rather than within three years after enactment of the law.

Board Powers

The substitute amendment explicitly states that the board may interpret the practices identified under the bill that are included and excluded from the practices and procedures that may be used by an ND. The substitute amendment also explicitly states that the board may not otherwise expand the scope of practice of a licensed ND or licensed limited-scope ND beyond the practices identified under the bill that may be used by an ND.

The substitute amendment also specifies that in the board's rulemaking for continuing education requirements, the board must accept qualifying training that is completed within five years after issuance of an initial license for a person who has committed to that training under the fourth option to meet the training requirement.

Miscellaneous Provisions

The substitute amendment makes certain other miscellaneous revisions relating to treating sexually transmitted diseases, the excluded practice of chiropractic or spinal adjustments, malpractice insurance requirements, and references to accrediting bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance.

MSK:jal

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



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From: Senator Kathy Bernier
To: Committee on Health
Re: **Testimony on Assembly Bill 529**
Relating to: the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, creating a naturopathic medicine examining board, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.
Date: January 6, 2022

Thank you Chairman Sanfelippo and committee members for allowing me to submit testimony on Assembly Bill 529 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.

Assembly Bill 529 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 having done so for over eighty years.

Since this bill was first heard in the Senate, our offices and the Naturopathic Doctors Association have worked diligently with other parties interested in the legislation to come up with a substitute amendment. Once this amendment is approved, it is expected to remove any outstanding concerns from those registered on the bill.

Officially recognizing and allowing Naturopathic Doctors to practice more fully to the extent of their training is an important step forward for Wisconsin's health community. I ask you to please consider the passage of Assembly Bill 529.



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

January 6, 2022

TO: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee

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

Chair Sanfilippo, members of the Assembly Committee, I am Dr. Allison Becker. I am a Naturopathic Doctor and licensed acupuncturist. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of AB 529. We also want to thank our lead assembly authors Representative Jesse Rodriguez and Senator Kathy Bernier who have steadily supported our bill through negotiations and the addition of amendments.

As a Naturopathic Doctor and licensed acupuncturist, I have provided care for local Wisconsinites since 2006. I have my own private clinic in Evansville where I specialize in women's health, chronic pain and fatigue. I am also a member of the Legislative Team of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association and have been working towards creating licensure for NDs in Wisconsin for over a decade. Without licensure, I cannot practice to my full scope, I cannot provide primary care for my patients, nor can I carry malpractice insurance.

Passing AB 529 will increase public safety, increase access to qualified providers, and give the public greater choice in their own health care.

What is in Assembly Bill 529?

- AB529 bill sets educational standards for licensable Naturopathic Doctors. My colleague Dr. Katarina Meister will be presenting about these educational standards and qualifications for licensure in detail. In addition, you will learn the requirements for medical board examinations and continuing education.
- AB529 protects the title Naturopathic Doctor so only those qualified as a licensed ND will be able to use this title and call themselves an ND. Title protection ensures the public can trust

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NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
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that anyone calling themselves a Naturopathic Doctor is qualified, competent and has the education and training to use the title.

- AB529 includes a grandfathering clause, a “limited-scope license”. Dr. Jill Crista will speak about this extensively to follow.
- AB529 creates the Naturopathic Medical Examining Board to provide oversight of Naturopathic Doctors, uphold the ethical standards of naturopathic medical practice, determine penalties for non-compliance, and ensure Naturopathic Doctors are physically, mentally and professionally competent. The role of this board is identical to other professional boards of other licensed professions.
- AB529 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.
- AB529 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, conduct physical exams, order and interpret labs and imaging, use natural medicines, and perform minor surgical procedures.
- AB529 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.
- AB529 does NOT allow NDs to perform chiropractic adjustments. We modified the original language so that it was acceptable to both Chiropractic Associations.

Currently, nearly half of the US has laws to regulate Naturopathic Doctors. This includes 25 states and jurisdictions. AB 529 is modeled after the states which already license NDs. See attached map to view which states are licensed and also note those states which are not yet



Dr. Allison Becker
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

licensed, but have current legislation action to license NDs. You will notice this wave to license Naturopathic Doctors is swelling across the country.

Licensable, medically trained Naturopathic Doctors are trained as primary care providers.

NDs 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.

To help you further understand this national movement to bring Naturopathic Doctors to their rightful place in the healthcare 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.
- 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.



Dr. Allison Becker

NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
& ACUPUNCTURE

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 protects the public and gives people the ability to choose this medicine as their primary care.

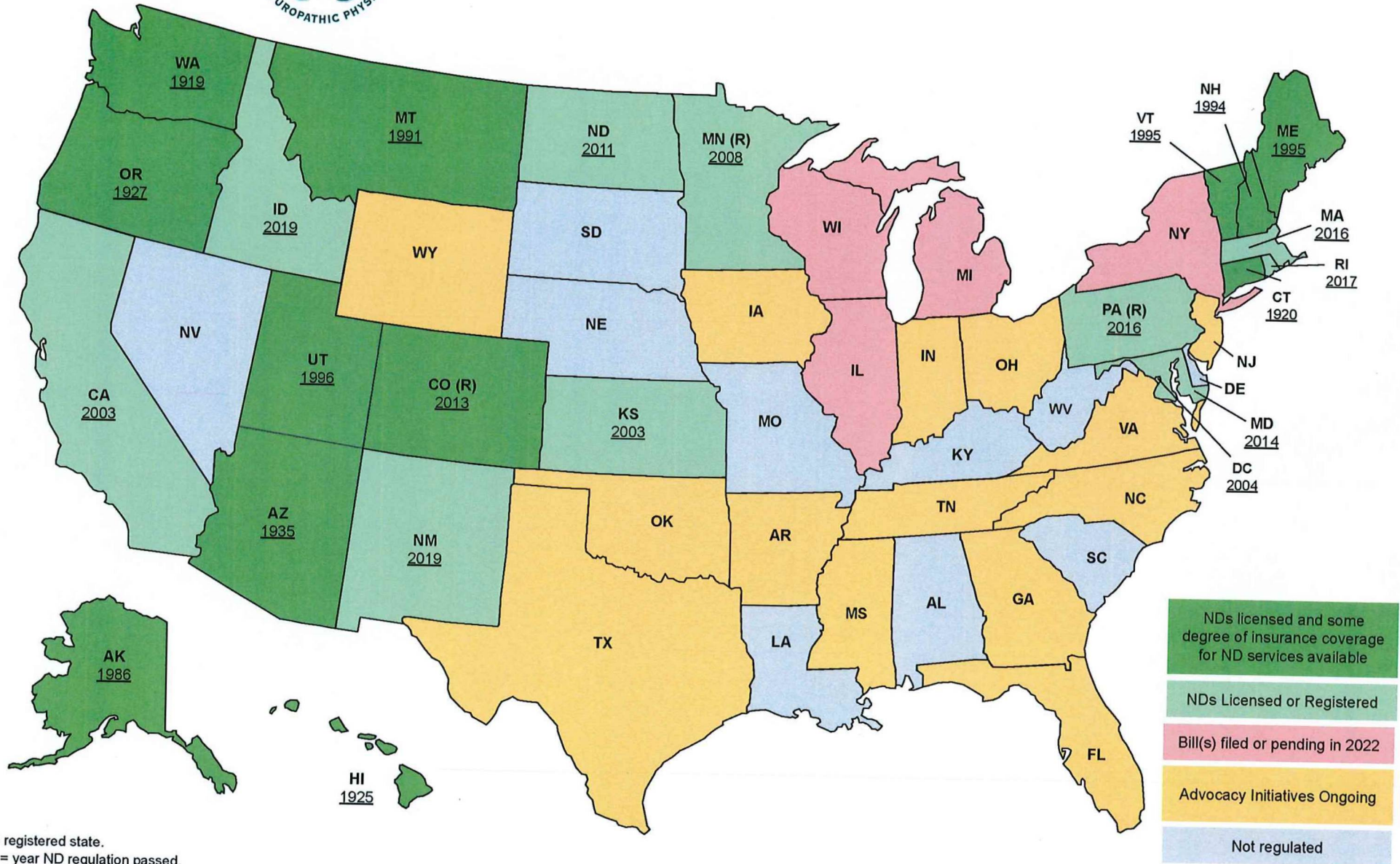
Thank you for your support for licensure for Naturopathic Doctors.

Allison Becker, ND, LAc



Regulation of Naturopathic Doctors in the United States

(Update 1/2022)



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

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Health Committee:

I'd like to express my gratitude to Representative Rodriguez and Senator Bernier for their fervent support to license naturopathic doctors in Wisconsin.

My name is Dr. Jill Crista and I'm a Naturopathic Doctor from Janesville. I serve on the Legislative Team for the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association, and I have the privilege of telling you about the compromises achieved on this bill, resulting in Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 529.

I'd first like to thank all the parties who were part of these negotiations for their willingness to have meaningful conversations. I'm pleased to report that we found common ground, while maintaining the integrity of our various professions. We look forward to building on the relationships forged in these conversations, and continuing positive collaborations in the future.

We worked to eliminate concerns raised in the initial Senate hearing on the bill on September 29, 2021. As a result, the Substitute Amendment before you today looks different from the bill we introduced originally, which I will outline in a moment.

The compromises have resulted in organizations that previously registered against the bill to either support it or come to neutral, pending approval of the Substitute Amendment.

I will now outline the changes. The compromises fell into three categories: board authority, prescribing, and grandfathering.

Board Authority. The amended bill language clarifies that the Naturopathic Medicine Examining Board does not have the authority to expand the scope of practice beyond that defined in the bill.

Prescribing. After productive conversations with stakeholders and lawmakers, we removed prescribing authority from our legislation. Even though licensed Naturopathic Doctors are trained in the safe prescribing of pharmaceutical medications, and have full prescribing privileges in 14 out of 25 states and jurisdictions that regulate Naturopathic Doctors, we yielded on this part of the scope of our training in order to garner support.

Grandfathering. Based on feedback from a number of legislators, we learned that it is not uncommon to grandfather a handful of qualified individuals during a transition period to licensing, for those who have been safely practicing in an unregulated environment. We consulted with state, national, and global advisors, including the World Naturopathic Federation to better understand the global standards of the profession. For those who could have been fenced out of the previous bill, we amended the training and qualifications to create a pathway to acquire a limited-scope license for qualified individuals.

Additionally, for those individuals who practice traditional or lay naturopathy, the Substitute Amendment continues to leave the title 'naturopath' in the public domain. Even though this was part of the original bill as introduced, we found that it wasn't sufficiently clarified, leaving some to believe that it created a fence-me-out policy. This was not our intention. Therefore, we added language to clarify our legislative intent. For example, a master herbalist who calls herself a 'naturopath' and helps women with perimenopause, will still be able to continue doing what she is currently doing, unaffected by this law.

As a result of the many changes that were made to the bill, prior opposition has been removed in the Substitute Amendment before you. By passing the Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 529, you will increase patient safety and their choice of care, access to care, and also ensure that anyone who wishes to call themselves a Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctor will have the education, training, competency, and credentials to meet the standards of a fully licensed medically trained Naturopathic Doctor, joining the 25 other states and jurisdictions who already do so.

I hope you will support this legislation.

With sincere thanks,



Dr. Jill Crista
Naturopathic Doctor
Janesville, WI



Sarah Axtell, ND

January 6, 2021

To Assembly Committee on Health:

I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 to license naturopathic doctors.

My name is Dr. Sarah Axtell. I have been practicing for almost 10 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 federally accredited naturopathic medical college, National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), in Portland, OR.

Licensing Naturopathic Doctors benefits Wisconsin's economy and Wisconsinites' healthcare.

Clearly, the demand for Naturopathic Doctors is high in Wisconsin. I have a private practice in Milwaukee, where we employ 7 people, including 3 Naturopathic Doctors. We've collectively seen over 4,000 patients per year. We primarily focus on lifestyle-preventable chronic health conditions, such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, autoimmune diseases, and IBS. I see patients from all over the state including 52 patients from the West Allis area. My current wait list for patients to establish care is 5 months. I want to employ additional doctors in the future so patients don't have to wait as long to establish care with me. But you see, lack of licensure is a barrier to practice. Newly graduated naturopathic doctors are hesitant to practice in an unlicensed state due to the limited scope of practice, inability to participate in loan forgiveness programs, and the fear of "cease and desist" at anytime.

I want to continue to grow my clinic, provide care for Wisconsin citizens seeking safe and effective health care and at the same time provide high-paying jobs for my employees and contribute to growing the local economy. Licensure ensures I can build my practice and make this affordable, practical medicine available to everyone.

Many of my patients rely on my care and want me to be able to be their primary care provider, which I cannot do until we have licensure. I have the training, knowledge, and experience to diagnose and treat disease, but I cannot. Every day I feel as if my hands are tied behind my back. For example, if I see a patient and he has signs of COVID, I have to refer him back to his primary care provider or Urgent Care where he may wait hours to be cared for, doubling the cost of care



Sarah Axtell, ND

and his suffering and exposing more people in the process. I am trained to order and interpret lab tests, perform physical exams, and diagnose and treat disease. However, without a license, I cannot provide that full scope of care. Currently, I act as more of a health consultant when I have the experience, training, and knowledge of a primary care physician. We have a severe primary care provider shortage, and licensing NDs will help fulfill that gap in care.

People come to see me to decrease their reliance on drugs and surgery. My passion with patients is using food as medicine, which is essential to our healthcare system. 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.

Naturopathic medicine is a cost-effective solution to this health care and economic crisis. The naturopathic approach saves people money and suffering.

People in Wisconsin deserve to have access to qualified, licensed Naturopathic Doctors as their health care providers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Axtell, ND".

Sarah Axtell, ND



Katarina Meister, ND
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January 6, 2022

To: Assembly Committee on Health

Chairman Sanfilippo, Members of the Assembly Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my experience with you as a recent graduate of Naturopathic Medical school.

My name is Dr. Katarina Meister, I am a newly licensed naturopathic doctor urging you to support Assembly Bill 529.

Background:

For a brief background about how I got here, my health came to the forefront when I had a difficult experience with severe Acne. After exploring all avenues of conventional medicine, I was naturally led to find a practitioner that was educated in both conventional and holistic treatments to assess my health, this person was a naturopathic doctor. My experience with my ND was individualized, comprehensive, and evidence based. 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 4,400 hours of training on average. This is comparable to the training of an MD. 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 2200 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 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 marks from Bastyr University California's Naturopathic Doctorate program, I passed my naturopathic licensing exams and returned to 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 AB529 and with licensure in the state of Wisconsin, it provides a huge opportunity for many newly graduated NDs to start their practice here. This will benefit Wisconsin economically and have a huge impact on the state of people's health here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Katarina Meister N.D.

Katarina Meister, ND
Naturopathic Doctor

January 6, 2022

re: In support of AB 529

Chairman Sanfilippo, Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

Thank you for your time. My name is Robyn Doege-Brennan and I live in Janesville, Wisconsin.

I was first introduced to Naturopathic medicine through an informational meeting held at the school our boys attended. I'd actually never heard of it before, but was intrigued with the idea of gaining a better understanding of how we could help ourselves be healthier through more natural methods and I quite frankly liked how she explained things. It was easy to understand and made sense.

Our entire family began seeing the naturopathic doctor with great results. I won't go into our medical history, but I think it's pretty impressive that our sons have taken antibiotics maybe 5 times (if that) throughout their lives (they're now 23 and 21). I don't think we'll have to worry about antibiotic resistance!

I'm grateful to say the Naturopathic doctor I work with is very knowledgeable and takes the time to explain the how and why my body reacts the way it does, offers safe alternative treatments that make sense, and, I believe, truly cares about me as a person. It's amazing that we can get effective results from more natural remedies that I feel are safer and definitely less expensive than getting a prescription.

I guess we're pretty lucky in the fact that our general practitioner is very much in favor of working in collaboration with our Naturopathic doctor. He reviews labs ordered by our ND and listens to what her insights are. He even shared with me that during his residency he had rounds with a naturopathic doctor. Now that's progressive if I've ever heard it!

My latest experience with my Naturopathic doctor. So, imagine this. You're right handed, you teach piano, and you wake up one morning and two of the fingers on your right hand are stuck. My thoughts exactly! Because of overusing my arm, I developed both golfer and tennis elbow. These, in turn, caused what is commonly known as trigger finger. In speaking with friends who are medical doctors, I was advised I could brace the elbow, if that didn't work I could get injections, and if that didn't work we'd move on to surgery. Needless to say, I made an appointment with my naturopathic doctor. She also recommended the elbow brace, but used acupuncture to reduce the inflammation, recommended Epsom salt baths and suggested some natural anti-inflammatories. Granted, it took a while, but without injections or surgery, I no longer have the trigger fingers and feel confident in my playing and teaching abilities again!

It would be amazing for my Naturopathic doctor to be able to order labs, imaging, write prescriptions, etc. As I'm my greatest health advocate, I'll do whatever I need to in order to ensure my best health, but it does get rather frustrating when we're addressing an issue

I have that requires labs, and I have to travel elsewhere to get those labs. Talk about wasting time and money!

In closing, why wouldn't we want our naturopathic doctors licensed? We need to ensure only those practitioners who meet the licensure requirements call themselves an ND. This not only ensures those of us who wish to pursue this type of health care are protected, it provides us with a means of validating those ever important credentials.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robyn Doege-Brennan
1904 Doubletree Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

January 6, 2022

Assembly Committee on Health

Chairman Sanfilipo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health:

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 for supporting this bill which would help restore medical health and wellbeing to so many.

Sincerely,

Kim Conradt

5456 Congress Avenue

Madison WI 53718

January 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

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 AB 529 OUT OF YOUR COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Members of Assembly Committee on Health:

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 work as an assistant in an ND's office and am 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. 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 NDs.

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. Licensing 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

January 6, 2022

Assembly Committee on Health

Members of the Assembly Committee on Health:

Thank you for your attention to Assembly Bill 529.

My name is Jennifer Raatz. I live in Wauwatosa and am the Program Manager for a Silicon Valley biotechnology startup. My work experience has given me knowledge in accreditation and standards, and the FDA approval process. This is a primary reason I sought care from a doctor trained in naturopathic medicine. I specifically sought care from Dr. Joanne Aponte at Lakeside Natural Medicine because: 1) she is a graduate of a medical college with Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) accreditation; and 2) she is an active member with past leadership roles of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association (WNDA).

Four years ago, I was suffering from chronic diverticulitis. I required hospital care five times in a two-year period. Initially, I sought care from gastroenterologists. I was prescribed cipro and flagyl, two of the most powerful antibiotics. Yet, the diverticulitis would return within weeks. I was told to eat more fiber and less popcorn. But no one ever even asked me about my diet. I was already a health-conscious eater and consuming the daily recommended fiber and rarely ate popcorn. I was told my chronic diverticulitis was caused by the presence of diverticula. But the majority of the adult population over 40 have diverticula, so why was I the only one I knew getting sick? I knew there had to be another cause.

In over two years since seeking naturopathic care, I've not sought hospital care once. Prior to following a naturopathic plan, during my

worst episode, I was hospitalized with sepsis for five days and out of work for over a week. That doctor wanted to remove my colon, but I refused because I'd learned that a colostomy wasn't statistically effective in resolving the issue and I was already learning about naturopathic medicine and thinking this was the solution to my problem. That hospitalization cost roughly \$10,000 and was a contributing factor in my subsequent bankruptcy.

Now, though rare, when I do have a diverticulitis flare up, I can resolve it within a few days with bone broth and colloidal silver at a cost of about \$100. I can't even imagine the lifetime monetary costs and the reduced quality of life of having my colon resected or living with a colostomy bag.

I now manage my chronic diverticulitis through simple dietary changes and supplements that cost me less than \$100 per month. Indirectly, this care plan has resolved some mild psoriasis, acne, fatigue, and weight management issues for which I hadn't even sought care.

I've shared my experience of healing through naturopathic medicine with others. Though I always recommend Dr. Aponte and Lakeside Natural Medicine, in some instances my friends and family sought naturopathic care without the knowledge of the importance of accreditation and standards that I have through my work experience. They simply searched for someone nearby and ended up with, in my opinion, expensive snake oil salesmen and no resolution to their issues.

I wish Dr. Aponte to be my primary care provider. Currently, when I seek care from Dr. Aponte, I often have to juggle visits with other providers in order to get orders for lab work and imaging. It's a hassle. I'm forced to participate in an expensive and ineffective system for medical care not of my choosing and from providers who do not respect my desire for

naturopathic care who are trained to simply prescribe me drugs to turnoff the "check engine" lights that my body has turned on instead of actually checking the engine.

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience.

Jennifer Raatz



Full Circle
Natural Medicine

Dawn M. Ley, ND

440 Science Drive
Suite 102
Madison, WI 53711

January 6, 2022

To: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee on Health

From: Dr. Dawn M. Ley, Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association

Members of the Assembly Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of AB 529, an important piece of legislation that increases public safety for Wisconsinites.

My name is Dr. Dawn Ley and I am a Wisconsin native who gladly returned home to serve fellow Wisconsinites. In my clinic, 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.

As a licensable Naturopathic Doctor, I am grateful for my excellent training to appropriately diagnose and treat disease, give safe and sound recommendations and to know when the patients' needs are out of my scope and it is prudent to refer to another medical provider. However, without a license, I cannot provide the complete care I am trained to provide.

I recognize when working with patients, there are many instances wherein a patient can be harmed.

This bill increases public safety in several ways:

- by ensuring those who use the title Naturopathic Doctor are medically trained by federally accredited naturopathic medical schools
- have passed national board exams
- have passed state jurisprudence and pharmacy exams
- maintain their continuing education
- carry malpractice insurance
- creates a process of professional oversight and disciplinary action
- upholds the ethical standards of practice of Naturopathic Medicine

In the practice of medicine, there are several ways the public can be harmed.

1) Inadequate medical training leading to incorrect diagnosis and treatment. For

example, at this time in Wisconsin, a person can seek the care of a Naturopathic Doctor and have absolutely no assurance this person has been medically trained. This bill eliminates this issue by title protecting Naturopathic Doctor and creating standards of education.

- 2) Frank malpractice by the doctor. Examples of this can be unethical treatment, or providing misleading and false claims. This bill creates a Board of Naturopathic Medicine and establishes policies and procedures in place to investigate malpractice. If a public member is harmed by an ND, this bill puts a process in place wherein the person can file a complaint and the ND can be investigated and disciplined.
- 3) This bill also protects Naturopathic Doctors by requiring they carry malpractice insurance. At this point without licensure, NDs are not eligible for coverage as primary care providers by malpractice insurance. This bill gives NDs protection in the event of a lawsuit. Malpractice coverage also opens up employment opportunities for NDs. Large health care employers including Marshfield Clinic, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the UW Hospitals and Clinics have expressed interest in hiring NDs but cannot due to lack of malpractice insurance.

In other states which license NDs, Naturopathic Doctors have an excellent record of safety. For example, looking at malpractice data from 2013-2019 in the state of Oregon, NDs have twelve times fewer disciplinary actions than MDs in Oregon.

See the letter of support from the Federation of Naturopathic Medical Regulation Authorities (FNMRA) detailing these statistics. This has been submitted separately.

Licensing of naturopathic doctors will increase public safety. As a member of this committee, you are a champion for public safety in healthcare.

I urge you to pass AB529 out of your committee.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dawn M. Ley



Federation of
Naturopathic Medicine
Regulatory Authorities

**Letter of Support for
AB529
Regulation of the Practice of
Naturopathic Medicine in Wisconsin**

January 6, 2022

Dear Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and Members of the Committee on Health,

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 Assembly Committee on Health, 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 long horizontal line extending to the right.

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						
Arizona	1		1			3
California						
Colorado	1					
Connecticut						
Dist. of Columbia						
Hawaii			1			
Idaho						
Kansas						
Maine						
Maryland	2					
Minnesota						
Montana						
New Hampshire						
New Mexico						
North Dakota						
Oregon		4				3
Puerto Rico						
Rhode Island						
Utah						
Vermont						
Virgin Islands						
Washington	1	1	3			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



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Madison, WI. 53704
Phone: 608.222.2700
Fax: 608.222.2771

Email: info@familynaturalmedicine.com

January 6, 2022

To: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee on Health

My name is Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr. I am a Naturopathic Doctor and licensed massage therapist practicing in Madison, Wisconsin and Chair of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctors Association (WNDA).

I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 which gives patients CHOICE in their health care. Licensing Naturopathic Doctors ensures patients they are seeing medically trained providers who specialize in natural medicine.

I graduated from Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington earning a doctorate degree in naturopathic medicine with concentration in pain management in 2010. I see many people who are suffering tremendously and are only offered often highly addictive and expensive pain drugs, or risky surgical options. Many do not know they have a choice in their healthcare provider whose tools can decrease their need for dangerous and expensive treatments. Licensable NDs specialize in holistic management of pain, getting to the root cause of the pain and using natural and lifestyle interventions to decrease the need for drugs and surgery.

Under the care of a licensed Naturopathic Doctor, people have an effective alternative to opiates. The Veterans Administration recognizes how critical people's access to non-drug alternatives is to impact the opiate crisis.

Former U.S. Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker, MD, PhD, characterized the military's engagement of



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complementary and integrative medicine as *imperative*. The Veterans Administration is anxious to incorporate Naturopathic Doctors into their programs. Naturopathic Doctors are already eligible to be employed by the Veterans Administration, but only in states which license NDs. By passing this legislation, AB 529 will increase employment opportunities for NDs, increase Wisconsinites access to non-opiate treatment options and help mitigate the opioid crisis.

Right now in Wisconsin, there are just 27 Naturopathic Doctors who are qualified as medical providers and licensable. I've talked to many new grads from federally accredited naturopathic medical schools who are FROM Wisconsin but do not want to return to Wisconsin until our state has licensure. Time and time again when states license NDs, the number of NDs increases exponentially. For example, when Minnesota started regulating NDs in 2008, there were 21 NDs in the state. Within 10 years later, that number had increased nearly 4 fold to 83! We can expect to see a similar increase in licensable, medically trained NDs in Wisconsin, with over 100 licensed Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin by the year 2030.

These new licensed NDs coming to Wisconsin will help fill the primary care gap and many more Wisconsinites will have access to these NDs and have greater choice in their health care.

I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 to increase patient CHOICE and give them greater access to qualified natural medical providers.

Sincerely,

Robert Coleman Jr, ND, LMT



January 5, 2022

To: Representative Sanfelippo and members of the Assembly Health Committee

From: Dr. Steven Conway representing the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin

Re: Testimony in support of Assembly Bill 529 relating to the regulation and licensure of naturopathic doctors, creating a naturopathic medicine examining board, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty.

Representative Sanfelippo and members of the Assembly Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Assembly Bill 529.

The Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin has always fully supported the efforts of the Wisconsin Naturopathic Doctor Association to obtain licensure for their profession in Wisconsin.

Our initial opposition and testimony at the Senate hearing was based solely on the language associated with the initial version, which failed to incorporate the previously agreed upon modifications negotiated between the CSW and the WNDA.

After the conclusion of the Senate hearing, WNDA through the efforts of Dr. Jill Crista, met with our association and agreed that there was an unintended error associated with the chiropractic language in the bill. They agreed to make the necessary corrections found in the substitute amendment that basically incorporated the original negotiated language.

We appreciate the positive efforts of Dr. Crista and the WNDA and our current position is 100% in support of AB 529.



Dr. Steven Conway

Executive Director of the Chiropractic Society of Wisconsin

DROESSLER CHIROPRACTIC

6000 Monona Drive, Suite 201

Monona, Wi. 53716

January 6, 2022

Re: ND Licensing, Support Assembly Bill 529

Dear Assembly Members of the Committee on Health:

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.



DATE: January 6, 2022

TO: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee on Health

RE: Support for AB529, Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Representative Sanfilippo and members of the committee on Health,

We are respectfully submitting feedback regarding AB529 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



DATE: January 6, 2022

TO: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee on Health

RE: Support for AB529, Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Representative Sanfilippo and members of the committee on Health,

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 AB529:

- **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.
- **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

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>.

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 they employ two staff people. There are an estimated 22 licensable NDs in Wisconsin, which when licensed, can generate up to 50 new jobs in year one, and approximately 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 public health for over 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/>



January 6, 2022

TO: Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and members of the committee on Health

RE: Support for AB529, Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Representative Sanfilippo and members of the committee on Health,

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.

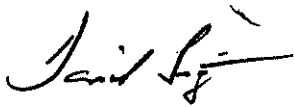
COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

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

January 6, 2022
In support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health,

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



January 6, 2022

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Dear Representative Sanfilippo and Honorable members of the committee on Health,

We are writing to strongly encourage you to pass 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.

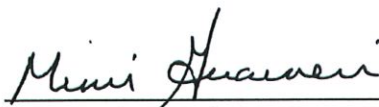
They are trained as specialists in natural medicine for primary care, and the treatment approaches learned by NDs emphasize the importance of identifying and treating the root causes of chronic illness, the necessity of preventive care, and the value of proactive patient self-care. Naturopathic doctors 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

Jan 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

January 6, 2022

re: Support AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 AB 529.

Sincerely,

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

Jan 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

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

January 6, 2022

re: in support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

Jan 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 daughters 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

January 6, 2022
In support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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

January 6, 2022
Supporting AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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

Jan 6, 2022
Supporting AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

Jan 6, 2022
re: in support of AB 529

TO: Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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

Jan 5, 2022
In support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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 AB529: Licensure of NDs

January 6, 2022

Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health,

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 Bill AB 529.

Sincerely,

Don Krizan

132 S. Harmony Drive

Janesville, WI 53545

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529 to license NDs

Dear Chairman Sanfillipo and members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

My name is Dr. 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)

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529 to license NDs

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My name is Dr. 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.

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Thank you for the great privilege to greet you and to present today.

Jonathan Cotter, MD, DOM
184901 County Road N
Birnamwood WI 54414
715-432-6642 (cell)

January 6, 2022
Supporting AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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. Wisconsin 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

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of the Committee on Health,

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

January 6, 2022

re: In support of Assembly Bill 529 to license NDs

Dear Chairman Sanfilipo and Committee members,

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

January 6, 2022

re: In favor of Assembly Bill 529 to license NDs

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and members of the Committee on Health,

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 Assembly Bill 529, licensure for NDs and help move healthcare forward for Wisconsin.

Sarah Bruhn
1013 Bedford Dr.
Janesville, WI 53546

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

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. I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529.

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.

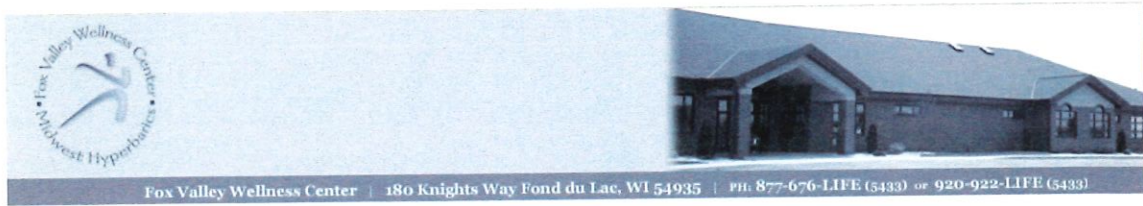
A family member urged me to try acupuncture. I went to a Naturopathic Doctor who asked me a lot of questions and physically checked me out. He noted that he thought it was a gall bladder issue that was the root cause. I told him two of my family members had their gall bladders removed. He said, we don't 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



January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

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



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

January 6, 2022

To: Chairman Sanfelippo and the Assembly Committee on Health

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

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 AB 529 out of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Havens, ND



6 January, 2022

Chairman Sanfelippo and Assembly Committee on Health,

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 AB 529 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.

AB 529 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", AB 529 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



DATE: 1/06/2022

POSITION: SUPPORT AB 529

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 Assembly Bill 529 a Favorable Report.

Sincerely,

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

January 6, 2022

Re: Supporting AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

January 6, 2022
In support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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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

January 6, 2022

Re: Support for AB 529 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

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

Assembly Hearing Date: January 6, 2022

Greetings Assembly Committee on Health, Chairman Sanfilippo.

Special thanks to Senator Bernier and Representative Jesse Rodriguez.

My name is Susan Frikken. I am a physical therapist in private practice in Madison, WI.

I am here in support of Assembly Bill 529 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, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SE Frikken". The letters are cursive and fluidly connected.

Dr. Susan E. Frikken, physical therapist

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

Chairman Sanfilippo, members of the Assembly Committee on Health.

Thank you to Representative Rodriguez and Senator Bernier.

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

January 6, 2022

To: Chairman Sanfillipo and members of the Assembly Committee on Health
Subject: Support for AB 529, a bill to license Naturopathic Doctors in Wisconsin

I am Kristine Nichols, a private citizen and patient living in Whitewater, Wisconsin. I am writing to support **Assembly Bill 529** on licensing naturopathic doctors in the state of Wisconsin.

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

January 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of Assembly Committee on Health,

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 Assembly Bill 529.

Sincerely,

Apple Bodemer, MD
Associate Professor of Dermatology
University of Wisconsin
451 Junction Rd.
Madison, WI.

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

Chairman Sanfilippo, Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

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 Doctor 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 AB529 out of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Kwon, DO
2 Birch Circle
Madison, WI 53711

Jan 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 bill AB 529:

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

January 6, 2022
In support of AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

Testimonial in support of Bill AB 529: Licensure of NDs

January 6, 2022

Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health, Please support Bill AB 529 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 Bill AB 529.

Sincerely,

Lois Krizan
132 S. Harmony Drive
Janesville, WI 53546

January 6, 2022

Dear Assembly Committee on Health:

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 a 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

Jan 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 AB 529:

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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



January 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Assembly Committee on Health:

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

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

January 6, 2022

Re: Support for AB 529

To Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

Jan 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

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

Jan 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health
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

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 AB 529.

Sincerely,

Kami Hansen

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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 AB 529.

Sincerely,

Claudette Gunther
N3261 Valley Rd
Bonduel, WI 54121



January 6, 2022

Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

My name is Dr. Kerry Niebrzydowski and I urge you to support AB 529. 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, they have to wait and it is redundant care. Additionally, this is a waste of time and money as they have to see another doctor in another facility. 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
Kerry Niebrzydowski ND MSOM LAc.
619 Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 243
Niagara, WI 54151
phone: (715)251-3555
fax: (715)251-3559

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

My name is Dr. Joanne Aponte Qualler. I am a practicing Naturopathic Doctor in Shorewood Wisconsin. I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 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 for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,
Joanne Aponte Qualler, ND

January 6, 2022

re: Support for AB 529

Dear Members of Assembly Committee on Health:

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 Assembly Bill 529, licensure for Naturopathic Doctors.

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

January 6, 2021

Thank you to the Assembly Committee on Health for hearing Assembly Bill 529 today.

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 doctors 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 doctors 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 doctors 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 doctors. 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 doctors is beneficial to Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,

Margot Harris, RN, NP, IBCLC

4102 Foxwood Court

Janesville, WI 53546

608-359-9541

January 6, 2022

re: support for Assembly Bill 529

Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health,

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

State of Wisconsin
Assembly Committee on Health

January 6, 2022

Chairman Sanfelippo,

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

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529 to license NDs

Dear Chairman Sanfelippo and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health,

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.

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

January 6, 2022

Dear Members of Assembly Committee on Health:

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



Orit Vardi Tragash ND, LAc

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

Date: 01/06/022

Subject: I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 to license Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Representative Sanfilippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and Member of the Committee on Health::

My name is Orit Vardi Tragash, a Naturopathic Doctor practicing in Madison, WI for five years. I urge you to support Assembly Bill 529 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.

January 6, 2022

re: **SUPPORT fAB 529, Licensure of Naturopathic Doctors**

Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health,

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.

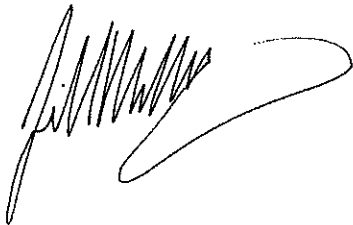
Naturopathic Doctors are experts in the safe and appropriate use of natural-based therapies. As the popularity and use of supplements and herbal remedies grows, licensure for naturopathic doctors will ensure that citizens of Wisconsin will have access to qualified health-care practitioners to monitor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

January 6, 2022

Position: Support AB 529

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 AB 529 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
david.kiefer@fammed.wisc.edu
608-212-7917 (mobile)

January 6, 2022
re: Support for AB 529

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

January 6, 2022

re: Support for Assembly Bill 529

Chairman Sanfilippo and Assembly Committee on Health:

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

January 6, 2021

re: Support for AB 529

Chairman Sanfilippo and Members of the Committee on Health,

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 disfunction. 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 AB 529 out of your committee. Thank you for your Time and Consideration.

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WISCONSIN LICENSURE - Support for AB 529

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 naturopaths 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 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 a decrease in healthcare cost, frequency of doctor visits, and most importantly, and 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 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

January 6, 2022
Assembly Committee on Health

Chairman Sanfillipo and members of the Assembly Committee on Health:

My name is Tim O'Brien, and I am the owner The Healthy Place. We sell supplements, vitamins, and natural alternatives and help people everyday find solutions for chronic pain, stress, anxiety, depression, sleep problems and so on. We have four brick and mortar stores in Madison and a website findyourhealthyplace.com where we serve Wisconsin and the nation.

On a personal note, my family has visited naturopathic doctors and greatly benefited by what they had to offer me. I only wish that they had the ability to function more in the scope of their training here in Wisconsin. I would love to use these doctors as our primary care doctor, but that is hard when they cannot prescribe or order imaging tests like a simple X-ray if one of my children could have pneumonia. We could save a lot of money and stress if these doctors could help us instead of having to refer us to our local urgent care where my children haven't developed a relationship with a doctor, or a different primary care doctor that could take weeks to months to get an appointment.

As a professional, over the years I have worked closely with licensable, medically-trained naturopathic doctors. . . I have been impressed with how they have referred patients to my store for high-quality products. I understand the vast knowledge they have from 4 years of undergrad education, and 4 years of medical school, and I feel comfortable referring my customers to them when I can tell their health needs a deeper look. Many of my customers would be much more willing and likely to see a doctor that is trained in natural medicine as well as conventional medicine. Often, they need blood draws, prescriptions, or even just a proper diagnosis. But it can be very hard to tell the difference between a natural doctor that only has some experience with herbs vs. a doctor who is also trained in medicine that could help these people a little bit more deeply. By having a license and a distinction, I would feel much more confident about how to refer my customers to the right doctor.

I understand that the bill is written in a way that does not exclude me from giving supplement advice or selling supplements and I am thankful that this bill does not limit me or others in different fields from being able to continue what we have been doing. I am happy that these licensed naturopathic doctors, as well as other traditional naturopaths, chiropractors, and other holistic providers will be able to continue to supply business to me by referring their clients.

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience.

Timothy O'Brien

Timothy O'Brien
Owner of The Healthy Place
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