



Michigan Association of Naturopathic Physicians

Dear Community Ally,

In 2013, the Michigan Association of Naturopathic Physicians (MANP) introduced House Bill 4152 into the House of Representatives Health Policy Committee. This bill will allow for licensure of Naturopathic Physicians in the state of Michigan. Our current sponsors are Representative Lisa Lyons, R-Alto and Representative Ellen Lipton, D-Huntington Woods.

States that license Naturopathic Physicians allow the health care consumer access to physician-level, safe, effective, evidence-based natural health care. They set standards for education of NDs and restrict the title "naturopathic doctor" and "naturopathic physician" to those licensed practitioners trained at institutions accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Naturopathic doctors who would be eligible for this bill are graduates from federally accredited four-year colleges of Naturopathic Medicine.

Benefits of Naturopathic Licensure include:

- **Mitigate Primary Care Shortage:** Naturopathic Physicians can help ease a stressed and overburdened medical system by filling the much-needed role for primary care medicine in the State of Michigan. In Washington state, where NDs can serve as primary care providers, 67.7% of patients who received Naturopathic care did not receive concurrent care from an MD/DO (Cherkin et al., 2002). Furthermore, it is estimated that 50% of NDs see patients from medically underserved populations (AANP, 2014).
- **Reduced Costs:** Diet and lifestyle interventions to prevent type 2 diabetes were more cost effective (and clinically effective) than early drug therapy in high-risk patients (Herman et al., 2005). The Vermont Auto Dealers Association use of naturopathic care for employees saved \$2.10 in medical costs for every dollar spent, and \$8.20 in total costs per employee for every dollar spent (Noe, 2005).
- **Increased Safety:** Licensure will help protect the public from misinformation about complementary and alternative therapies that is ubiquitous on the Internet, in the media, in health food stores, and from naturopaths and other practitioners who have a correspondence school education. Licensure will also increase availability of integrative partnerships between conventional medical providers and Naturopathic Physicians, improving patient care.
- **Increased Access:** Local communities will enjoy an increase in safe and natural healthcare options and highly individualized medical care. Patients would not have to travel outside Michigan to see licensed Naturopathic Physicians. Licensure would also make it more feasible for patients to get insurance coverage for Naturopathic medical care.
- **Improved Outcomes:** Multiple clinical trials have demonstrated how Naturopathic care produces health improvement and risk factor reduction for conditions like cardiovascular disease (Seely et al., 2013), diabetes (Bradley et al., 2012), menopause (Cramer et al., 2003), low back pain (Szczerko et al., 2007), and anxiety (Cooley et al., 2009).

How You Can Help

In order to conduct our legislative activities, the MANP needs your support. Your donation will be used to hire a lobbyist and is therefore NOT tax-deductible. Instead, with your permission, we will include your name on a "Thank You" page on our website dedicated to Community and Corporate Sponsors. For more information, please visit our website: MichND.org

Sincerely,

The Michigan Association of Naturopathic Physicians

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Send this page in the enclosed envelope (or, to MANP, P.O. Box 1656, Ann Arbor MI 48106).

Please accept our most sincere gratitude for your help in licensing Naturopathic Physicians in the State of Michigan. We will contact you soon regarding your benefits.