



Ashley King M.D.  
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## Capital City Family Medicine

1/25/21

Dear Legislator,

I am contacting you as a medical doctor to ask for your support of naturopathic physicians in North Dakota.

I support the access to full scope and standard of care of Naturopathic Physicians who graduated from a four year federally accredited naturopathic medical school (CNME). I graduated from University of Washington School of Medicine prior to completing my residency at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho in Boise, ID. During medical school, I had the opportunity to spend a one-month rotation at Bastyr University, a highly respected four-year training program for naturopathic physicians in Seattle, WA. I was impressed by the academic rigor and professionalism that I observed. I left my rotation hoping to find trained naturopathic physicians to collaborate within my future practice.

As a family physician in Boise, initially, this was difficult to find as naturopathic physicians had not yet been licensed in Idaho. However, in 2020, this changed when naturopathic physicians who graduated from four-year programs were allowed to become licensed in the state and have access to their full scope of care. As a family physician in Idaho, I now am able to easily determine which naturopathic physicians are licensed and guide my patients to make good choices about the care they receive from natural medicine practitioners. I also have had the opportunity to work closely with providers in my state who were trained in this way and I have been impressed with their care, collaboration and scope to practice. They serve an important role in my patient's care. As patient's continue to seek complementary and alternative treatments to their medical problems, it is essential to have well-trained providers with full access to their standard of care to guide them and collaborate with their allopathic doctors in a meaningful way

Access to their full scope and standard of care for naturopathic physicians allows for improved collaboration and public safety.

Thank you for your time. I appreciate your help in getting naturopathic physicians access to their full scope and standard of care in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tara Whitaker", is written over a horizontal line.

Tara Whitaker, MD