



March 4, 2025

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
240 / 241 Taylor House
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB867

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB867 and urge you to advance this critical legislation. As the Dean of the College of Naturopathic Medicine at Sonoran University of Health Sciences, I have firsthand knowledge of the extensive training naturopathic doctors (NDs) undergo to become highly skilled primary care providers.

Naturopathic medical education is a rigorous, four-year, in-person medical program that integrates conventional medicine with evidence-based natural therapies. The first two years focus on a strong biomedical foundation—including anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, and immunology—alongside clinical and laboratory diagnosis. Our therapeutic training emphasizes prevention and includes instruction in natural medicine modalities such as botanical medicine, hydrotherapy, nutrition, and acupuncture, in addition to pharmaceuticals. This dual training allows NDs to safely prescribe and adjust medications while identifying potential interactions between conventional and naturopathic treatments. NDs are also uniquely trained to recognize drug-drug, drug-herb, and drug-nutrient interactions.

Our program includes over 1,200 hours of direct patient care at our two on-site clinics, as well as seven community health clinics. One of our onsite clinics, the Neil Riordon Center for Regenerative Medicine specializes in non-opioid pain management. At this center students work in an integrative medicine environment providing evidence-based treatment for pain relief. Graduates must pass two national licensing examinations to demonstrate their competency as primary care providers.

Your support of HB867 will ensure that your constituents have access to safe and effective therapeutic treatments to address their needs.

I appreciate your leadership and respectfully urge your support for HB867. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information.



**SONORAN
UNIVERSITY**
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of
Naturopathic
Medicine

Sincerely,

Jessica Mitchell, ND FABNP
Dean, College of Naturopathic Medicine
Sonoran University of Health Sciences