



February 18, 2025

RE: Support for HB867

Dear Madame Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

On behalf of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the national professional association representing over 8,000 Licensed Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) throughout 26 US jurisdictions, we encourage strong support for HB 867 to modernize Maryland NDs scope of practice to provide access to a formulary aligned with established ND education and training and commensurate with naturopathic medical practice.

NDs are educated and trained in primary care to diagnose and treat illness. They are graduates of four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral level programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). They complete at least 4,100 hours in basic and clinical sciences, including hundreds of hours of training relating to pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics.

Additionally, NDs are educated and trained specifically on the mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions of pharmaceuticals. By understanding pharmacological principles, naturopathic practitioners can make informed decisions, minimize risks, and maximize therapeutic benefits for their patients. Naturopathic Doctors are also the only provider types uniquely trained in not only recognizing drug-drug interactions, but also drug-herb, and drug-nutrient interactions. With most of the population reporting independent use of dietary supplements in addition to being on pharmaceuticals, this is an increasingly important skill.

NDs have been participating as licensed healthcare practitioners in Maryland since 2014. AANP wholeheartedly supports passage of HB867 which will better serve the citizens of Maryland by allowing Maryland NDs the tools to effectively and safely treat their patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Farr
Executive Director