



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

Letter in Support of HB 867 – Modernizing Naturopathic Doctor Scope of Practice

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

On behalf of the **Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC)**, the international professional association representing accredited naturopathic medical programs in the United States and Canada, we strongly urge your **support for HB 867**. This legislation modernizes the scope of practice for NDs in Maryland, ensuring access to a formulary that is **aligned with their rigorous education and training** and commensurate with the **broad scope of naturopathic medical practice**.

Naturopathic Education: Rigorous & Comprehensive

NDs are educated and trained as **primary care physicians**, with a curriculum designed to diagnose and treat illness comprehensively. ND education occurs in **four-year, full-time, in-residence, doctoral-level programs** accredited by the **Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME)**—the only accrediting body recognized by the **U.S. Department of Education** for naturopathic medical programs.

NDs complete **4,100 hours of training in basic and clinical sciences**, including extensive coursework in **pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics**. Further, graduates meet expectations for clinical competency prior to completing psychometrically valid licensing examinations that account for safe entry into the practice of naturopathic medicine.

Pharmacology Education & Patient Safety

NDs receive extensive education in **the mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions of pharmaceuticals**, providing a **strong foundation for responsible prescribing and administration of IV and intramuscular (IM) therapies**. Their training uniquely prepares them to:

- **Identify and mitigate drug-drug interactions**
- **Assess drug-herb and drug-nutrient interactions**—a critical skill given the widespread use of dietary supplements alongside prescription medications

- **Ensure patient safety** by integrating pharmacological and natural treatment approaches

Maryland's Opportunity to Strengthen Healthcare Access

Since **2014**, NDs have been licensed healthcare practitioners in Maryland, serving their communities effectively. HB 867 will **enhance patient care, improve healthcare access, and ensure that NDs can practice to the full extent of their education and training**, benefiting Maryland residents.

We urge your **strong support for HB 867** to modernize naturopathic practice and ensure patients receive the **comprehensive, well-informed, and safe care they deserve**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at **(202) 849-6306** if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Yanez, ND, MPH, CAE

Executive Director

Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC)