



February 11, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support SB470 and Maryland Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), the national professional association representing more than 8,000 licensed naturopathic doctors across 26 U.S. jurisdictions, we respectfully urge the Health Committee to advance HB 520, legislation to modernize the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Maryland.

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) have been participating as licensed healthcare practitioners and serving their patients in Maryland since 2014. HB520 modernizes Maryland's naturopathic physician scope of practice by aligning statutory authority with the rigorous education, clinical training, and national board certification already required of licensed Naturopathic Doctors. The bill authorizes prescribing authority that is grounded in demonstrated competence, not expansion beyond training. HB520 strengthens public protection by clearly defining qualifications, reinforcing professional accountability, and ensuring that Maryland residents receive safe, regulated, and evidence-informed care from appropriately trained providers.

Allow me to provide you and members of the Committee the facts regarding the education, training, and safety of Maryland Naturopathic Doctors (NDs).

- Naturopathic doctors complete four-year, full-time doctoral programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), totaling approximately 4,100 hours in basic and clinical sciences, diagnosis, clinical decision-making, and pharmacology.
- Naturopathic medical program curricula include comprehensive pharmaceutical training: Medical Pharmacology, Psychopathology, Approaches to Addiction, and Clinical Pharmacy courses covering organ systems, special populations, and major disease conditions
- All CNME accredited naturopathic medical programs prepare all graduates, without exception, to meet the clinical and prescribing standards required in every licensed jurisdiction - including those with the broadest prescribing authorities.

- Fifteen states authorize licensed naturopathic doctors to prescribe prescription medications. In nine of these states, naturopathic doctors are authorized under state law to prescribe controlled substances and may obtain DEA registration in accordance with federal regulations.

Naturopathic doctors receive comprehensive education and training in pharmacological principles, including mechanisms of action, adverse effects, and drug interactions. This training equips NDs to make informed clinical decisions, manage risk, and optimize patient outcomes.

Naturopathic doctors are also uniquely educated to identify and manage not only drug–drug interactions, but also drug–herb and drug–nutrient interactions. As a growing proportion of patients routinely use dietary supplements alongside prescription medications, this competency is increasingly critical to ensuring safe, coordinated, and patient-centered care.

NDs have proven themselves to be safe prescribers. Currently, NDs have prescriptive authority in 15 of the 26 regulated jurisdictions. From 2010 to the present, the Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) has documented 74 prescribing-related disciplinary actions against NDs. The overwhelming majority of these actions are associated with opioid prescribing which is outside the scope of HB 520.

AANP wholeheartedly supports passage of HB520 which will serve Maryland by allowing Maryland Naturopathic Doctors the tools to effectively and safely treat their patients.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please call me at 202-849-6306 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Farr", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Laura Culberson Farr
Executive Director