



American Naturopathic Association
The oldest and original Naturopathic organization since 1919
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www.nature-cure.org

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Maryland Department of Health

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Maryland Department of Health has taken issue with therapists other than licensed acupuncturists performing acupressure. This is a terminology problem and somewhat a facetious argument, considering that “acu” is derived from “acus” (needle), and semantically that should mean “pressure with a needle”, which it obviously is not. Acupuncturists’ stance that acupressure is a protected component of acupuncture practice, hinging on the prefix “acu” is ill-founded. It could also be argued that from a historical perspective, acupressure preceded acupuncture and therefore the latter is actually an infringement on the former.

But long before there was any acupuncture legislation in the U.S., naturopathic doctors had an entire range of mechanotherapy techniques and were pressing on reflex points in varied applications such as Neurotherapy (including Zone Therapy, Reflexology, and Chapman’s Reflexes). Their right to use such applications was clearly spelled out in Federal law (see attached).

Perhaps more pertinent is the fact that I served as president of the West Virginia Board of Acupuncture for some years, and our board never considered the use of acupressure by a different profession an issue.

It is the policy of our national organization, the American Naturopathic Association, that the practice of acupressure, by any name, should not be considered proprietary by any group. We urge the Maryland Department of Health to suspend any action on this matter.

Most Sincerely yours,

C.P. Negri, ND
President, American Naturopathic Association

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structive and destructive material, but the injured parts must be repaired, morbid growths and abnormal formations dissolved and eliminated, and lesions in the bony structures corrected by manipulated treatment.

In organic diseases the vitality is usually so low and destruction so great that the organism cannot arouse itself to self-help. Even the cessation of suppressive treatment and the stimulating influence of mental and metaphysical therapeutics are not sufficient to bring about the reconstructed healing process, and this can only be accomplished by the combined influence of all the natural methods of living and of treatment. The Ling System of Swedish movement cures, founded in 1805, has always been part of the naturopathic treatment.

Dietetics also plays a most important part in the treatment and the use of foods of such biochemical tissue-building products as cell salts as are found in the normal body, and the use of vegetal oils and dehydrated and pulverized fruits, flowers, seeds, barks, herbs, roots, and vegetables uncompounded and used in their natural state. And the use of herbs, fruits, and plants dates back to the earliest practitioners. In the year 1512 King Henry VIII granted what is known as the herbalist charter, which became a part of the law of the Thirteen Original States and continues in force as a part of the common law of today.

Naturopathy has kept pace with the advance of modern natural sciences and methods of healing, and in the future will be adopted to new discoveries in the healing art in the natural sciences.

Naturopathy is not the invention of any human mind; it does not place its origin at any given date but is the accumulation of knowledge pertaining to natural methods of living and healing throughout the centuries. Naturopathy is more

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than a system of curing aches and pains; it is a complete revolutionizing of the art of living.

Naturopathy is the philosophy of healing basing its treatment of all physiological functions and abnormal conditions of the body on the natural laws governing the body. The success of naturopathy is due to the fact that they do not rely on one method of treatment but must include in their work all that is good in the different systems of natural healing. Naturopathy as approved in aforesaid act, February 27, 1929, hereafter shall comprehend and embrace and be composed of the following acts and practices and usages of the physiological and mechanical and material sciences of healing, as follows: Iridology, diagnosis, and the practice of physiological, mechanical, and material sciences of healing: **the physiological and mechanical sciences, such as the mechano-therapy, articular manipulation, corrective and orthopedic gymnastics, neurotherapy, psychotherapy, hydrotherapy and mineral baths, electrotherapy, thermotherapy, radiotherapy, phototherapy, chromotherapy, vibrotherapy, thalamotherapy, and orificial dilatation and other stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system through the orifices, and dietetics, which shall include the use of foods of such biochemical tissue-building products and cell salts as are found in the normal body; and the use of vegetal oils and dehydrated and pulverized fruits, flowers, seeds, barks, herbs, roots, and vegetables uncompounded and used in their natural state.**

In conclusion, I feel that this great group of Nature's healers are performing a wonderful service to humanity, and it can be truthfully said of them—

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.