



February 10, 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 for SB470 Naturopathic Doctor Prescribing Authority

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) to recommend that the Senate Finance Committee advance Maryland SB470, a bill to modernize Maryland's Naturopathic Doctor scope of practice.

The CNME is the only U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency for doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine (ND programs). Graduation from a CNME-accredited ND program qualifies an individual to take the NPLEX licensing exam and to become a licensed naturopathic doctor in the Canadian provinces and U.S. states and where naturopathic medicine is a regulated medical profession, including Maryland.

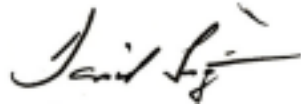
The CNME's rigorous accreditation process promotes high-quality naturopathic medical education and training with the goal of ensuring safe and effective practice. The following are elements of a CNME-accredited ND program relevant to the committee's consideration of this proposed legislation:

- NDs eligible for licensure in Maryland complete a four-year (4,100+ hour), full-time, primarily residential, doctoral degree program that comprises biomedical and clinical science coursework similar to what is found in MD programs, including substantial training relating to pharmacology and pharmacognosy. Programs include over 141 hours of didactic training in pharmacology.
- In addition to courses on pharmacology and pharmacognosy, the ND curriculum incorporates integrated training regarding various organ systems and how to effectively care for a wide range of conditions and patient populations using both natural approaches and standard medications, according to what is the least invasive, effective, and appropriate to the patient.
- In the third and fourth years of an ND program, student interns take on increasing responsibility for patient care in university clinics, ultimately managing and following a panel of patients for a year as well under the supervision of attending physicians..

Other states have already modernized the ND scope of practice based on their review of the CNME's naturopathic medical education standards and the curricula of accredited ND programs. Thus, if passed, SB470 will serve the residents of Maryland by enabling licensed NDs to utilize the full extent of their education and training to safely and effectively care for their patients.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding CNME's accreditation standards and processes. Thank you for considering the Council's input on and support of HB520.

Sincerely,



Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD
Executive Director

COUNCIL ON NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION



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