



February 11, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB520 State Board of Physicians - Naturopathic Doctors - Scope of Practice, Renewals, and Professional Liability Insurance

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee,

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 HB520. This legislation modernizes the scope of practice for NDs in Maryland 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 biomedical 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 and prescribing pharmacological and natural treatment approaches

HB520 will enhance patient care and access by allowing appropriately trained, regulated NDs to practice to the full extent of their education and licensure, supporting Maryland patients and strengthening the healthcare workforce.

We urge your strong support for HB520 to modernize naturopathic practice and ensure patients in Maryland receive the comprehensive, well-informed, and safe care they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (800) 345-7454 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn Yanez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "JoAnn" and last name "Yanez" clearly distinguishable.

JoAnn Yanez, ND, MPH, CAE

Executive Director

Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges