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American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Releases Statement on the Slaying of Kentucky-based Lifestyle Coach

Washington, DC - The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) released the following statement regarding the March killing of a Bowling Green, Kentucky-based lifestyle coach.

"This tragic scenario underscores the need for vigorous public awareness on the education, training, and scope of practice of licensed Naturopathic Doctors (ND) as well as the essential need for state regulation of licensed Naturopathic Doctors. It is important the public understand the vast distinction in the education and training of a licensed Naturopathic Doctor and Juan Gonzalez, a self-proclaimed practitioner.

"The AANP is the largest organization representing licensed Naturopathic Doctors. We support the practice and science of naturopathic medicine administered by a licensed ND. Each AANP member has graduated from a four-year, postgraduate education program at naturopathic medical schools accredited by agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

"The AANP strongly advocates for greater patient access to licensed NDs in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The last two decades have seen an extraordinary increase in consumer demand for safe, effective, and cost-effective natural health care. Currently, 22 U.S. states and territories regulate the practice of Naturopathic Doctors. The AANP is working to expand that number, since such oversight is imperative to protection of the public and for maintaining minimum professional standards.

"We are proactively working with state associations of NDs to help build advocacy programs in order to achieve state licensure and ensure a full scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors. Regulating the practice of naturopathic medicine is an appropriate exercise of the states' regulatory power and protects the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens.

"The AANP is involved in a number of areas to achieve the full integration of Naturopathic Doctors within to the nation's health care landscape by:

- Advocating on Capitol Hill for federal legislation that expands consumer access to licensed NDs and addresses health care provider shortages
- Educating patients and consumers about the safety, efficacy, and cost effectiveness of naturopathic health care
- Collaborating with consumer, policy, and public health organizations to increase awareness of naturopathic medicine
- Hosting an annual legislative event where licensed NDs and students meet face-to-face with members of Congress and encourage them to support efforts that will help move the profession to full recognition"

About the AANP:

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is the professional association that represents licensed naturopathic physicians. AANP strives to make naturopathic medicine available to every American, and to increase recognition of naturopathic physicians as the identified authorities on natural medicine.

Learn more at www.naturopathic.org.