

Governor Signs Licensure Bill in Massachusetts, Effective Immediately
The Bay State is the second state to gain naturopathic licensure within a year's span.
(The Massachusetts legislature has amended the bill's effective date to September 1, 2017.)

A major victory for naturopathic medicine and a major milestone in health care was achieved today - Gov. Charlie Baker, (R-MA), signed a bill, effective immediately, to license Naturopathic Doctors in the state. This unprecedented move was 20 years in the making, and ensures the safe practice of naturopathic medicine in Massachusetts. This is the second state to gain licensure within a year's span. Pennsylvania achieved regulation in November, 2016.

Congratulations and appreciation goes to the Massachusetts Society of Naturopathic Physicians (MSND).

"I, along with my colleagues and friends at the MSND are thrilled to join the ranks of health care providers in the state. We look forward to bringing naturopathic medicine to the residents of Massachusetts," says Amy Rothenberg, ND, president, MSND. "I applaud Gov. Baker and the legislative process that studied and vetted this profession for over 20 years and came to understand the unique role that licensed Naturopathic Doctors can play in the state. This bill allows the people of Massachusetts to access well-educated and trained Naturopathic Doctors for their expertise in both preventive medicine and natural integrative care. We are thrilled at the passage of this legislation."

"While we celebrate licensure wins in every state, we're overjoyed that residents in Massachusetts have the ability to now visit a licensed Naturopathic Doctor," said Jaclyn Chasse, ND, president, AANP. "This also is a personal win for me as a Massachusetts resident. It's hard to convey in words the enthusiasm and triumph I feel witnessing the strong advocacy efforts that Naturopathic Doctors have poured into obtaining licensure in the state."

"This is what we're here for; to help states obtain licensure," commented Ryan Cliche, executive director, AANP. "We are beyond excited at the results of the hard work and dedication shown by state leaders and its members. The AANP is thankful to Dr. Rothenberg, the MSND, AANP members, and the naturopathic community for coming together to help push this bill over the finish line. Cliche added, "The AANP and MSND have advocated for licensure in Massachusetts for the better part of 20 years and this effort will help other states also seeking licensure."