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North Carolina Naturopathic Doctors Unite in Raleigh

Naturopathic Doctor Certification Bill will expand alternative health care in North Carolina

Raleigh, NC, March 1, 2017 - On Wednesday, March 1, Naturopathic Doctors from across North Carolina will come together at the state capitol to educate senators and representatives about the benefits of certifying Naturopathic Doctors in preparation for introduction of a Naturopathic Doctors Certification bill. This legislative effort is spearheaded by the North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians (NCANP), the state professional organization that represents Naturopathic Doctors in North Carolina who are graduates of four-year in-residence naturopathic medical schools. The bill will ensure the safe practice of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina by establishing educational, board certification, and continuing education standards which are consistent with established national standards. The bill will increase citizens' access to safe and effective alternatives in health care, improve public safety in seeking out these alternatives, and decrease health care costs through a strong focus on preventative medicine and the utilization of natural, low-cost therapies. If certified, North Carolina will become the 23rd U.S jurisdiction to regulate naturopathic medicine.

"I, along with my friends and colleagues at the NCANP, am looking forward to working together with other medical professionals in North Carolina as specialists in natural medicine. We are already serving in communities across the state and hope that certification will help us to more fully participate in the care of our patients. When we all work together, our patients reap the rewards." said Dr. Amy Hawkins, ND, president of the NCANP. "I applaud our bill sponsors and legislative leaders who have vetted this profession for the last 17 years and have truly come to understand the unique role that Naturopathic Doctors have within the medical profession. This certification bill will improve access to safe and effective healthcare provided by qualified Naturopathic Doctors who are experts in preventive medicine, natural remedies, and integrative patient care."

Naturopathic doctors focus on preventive medicine and a patient-centered approach to healthcare. Naturopathic Doctors utilize natural, noninvasive, and nontoxic therapies to treat root cause of illness. The guiding principle of naturopathic care is to work with and promote the body's inherent ability to heal, and Naturopathic Doctors excel in educating patients regarding the steps needed to achieve and maintain optimal health. Naturopathic Doctors use a variety of modalities, including dietary counseling, lifestyle counseling, herbal medicine, homeopathic medicine, and targeted nutrient therapy to empower patients to improve their health.

About the NCANP:

The North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians is a non-profit 501-C organization formed in 1987 and registered with the North Carolina Secretary of State. The NCANP represents Naturopathic Doctors in North Carolina who are graduates of four-year in-residence naturopathic medical schools that are regionally and nationally accredited by the Council for Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the U.S Department of Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.