

Ethan Hattoy- H7299-Support

Dear Chairwoman Donovan, I am writing to ask for your support of passing bill H7299 to improve patients' accessibility to medical care from licensed Naturopathic Physicians. Passage of this bill is very important to me.

Our son has non-verbal autism, and it has been a tough journey trying to find services and help for him. Even though we have excellent insurance coverage through Blue Cross, there is a waiting list for every service imaginable and the results from these services have not always yielded positive outcomes. We have done treatments for our son that include but are not limited to: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, chiropractor, craniosacral therapy, audiologists, X-rays, ENT doctor, Orthopedic Surgeon, Early Intervention, the CNDC at Hasbro, regular visits to his Pediatrician, and more.

Of all the services and treatments we have gotten for our son in the last year, it amazes me that the one service we feel was the MOST HELPFUL to him was NOT covered by insurance. This would be his treatment and ongoing relationship with our Naturopathic Doctor. We had not gained much progress from the various conventional offerings through the multi-trillion dollar healthcare system this country has, so we decided to visit a Naturopathic Doctor.

Our experience with a Naturopathic Doctor has been eye opening to have a more personalized, whole-body approach to medicine, healing, and healthcare that focuses on so many more aspects of our son's health than traditional medicine does. Our appointments are regularly 30-45 minutes with our Naturopathic Doctor, as opposed to maybe 5-10 minutes appointments with the pediatrician. There is lots of follow up and communication with the actual Naturopathic doctor, not just a nurse or receptionist at a front desk at the Pediatrician's office. There are toys in the Naturopathic doctor's office and our son has a smile on his face the whole time he is there, as opposed to his kicking and screaming at the Pediatrician's office. I could go on, but the whole experience just seems more natural and normal and how it should be.

At our Naturopathic Doctor visits, we talk about sleep, nutrition, diet, skin, stool, etc. We take blood tests, heavy metal tests, allergy tests, and more. We analyze data together and have learned so much about our son's body. We found out our son has a genetic mutation. We take natural supplements and probiotics instead of prescriptions and drugs. It's been a wildly different experience going to our Naturopathic Doctor than what we were programmed to accept through the traditional medicine model. We feel like going to the Naturopathic Doctor is something we actually enjoy and it gives us more mental strength as parents who are struggling to find answer for our son and have finally started to make great progress.

If I had a choice to go back in time over just this past year and either go through the hundreds of services, treatments, specialists, and visits we had made (that probably costs my insurance company tens of thousands of dollars) **OR** just make visits to our Naturopathic Doctor, I would chose my Naturopathic Doctor. It seems almost obvious that everything we have done through this doctor should be covered by insurance. I hope my story resonates with you and this committee, because there are a lot of other families out there just like me looking for help and hope and I have found it with my Naturopathic Doctor. I might be able to afford a lot of these treatments without insurance for my son, but not everyone else can. I'm not urging you to pass this bill for me, I'm urging you to do this for the families that need it more than I do. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ethan Hattoy
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