

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

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

I am struggling with systemic, chronic, and complex illnesses stemming in large part from long term exposure to environmental toxins, including: (1) microplastics/PFAs/endocrine disruptors, (2) mold and mycotoxins from living in water damaged buildings, and (3) low air quality/toxic air pollution due to wildfire smoke, that, under our current regulatory framework, will likely require thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket payments to a trained and licensed Naturopathic Doctor (ND), specialized medical laboratories, and compounding pharmacies to fully resolve.

Like many other disabled citizens in your jurisdiction, I do not have the financial capacity to pay for all of the out-of-pocket lab work and treatment needed for my recovery during a single pay cycle, or even a monthly one, and must stagger the necessary medical tests and ND appointments needed so that I can make ends meet each month. This delay in treatment and testing will likely slow down and/or impede the rate of my recovery, increasing the odds that my body's cumulative toxic burden will result in multiple organ damage or life threatening diseases such as cancer, lung, or heart disease.

Furthermore, seeking treatment from allopathic approaches, or normative medical treatment from my previous, non-Naturopathic Doctors, did not: (1) lead to a substantive diagnosis, (2) relieve my symptoms, or (3) uncover the root causes of my illnesses. Rather than benefit from the healthcare system that I pay into each month through my health insurance, I was locked in a frustrating and confusing cycle of repeatedly telling my Primary Care Physician what the new symptoms of my deteriorating condition were, only to have no new medical testing ordered nor any proactive investigation into the root cause(s) of my illnesses.

If NDs' full scope of practice is included into a regulatory framework in which patients can use their health insurance to receive the life saving care they deserve, our medical care system can relieve some of its current congestion and disabled taxpayers with complex illnesses can hope to live a full and vibrant life again one day without incurring lifelong medical debt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Frieda McAlear  
528 Smithfield Rd. Apt. 105  
North Providence, RI 02904