



Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

I am Angela McCann, ND, DA and I am writing to ask for your support in passing bill H7299 to improve patients' accessibility to medical care from licensed Naturopathic Physicians. Passing this bill is very important to me. Thank you for your consideration.

I am a medically-trained Naturopathic Physician licensed in Rhode Island. I am a member of the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians, a group dedicated to supporting Licensed Naturopathic Physicians here in Rhode Island. I was born and raised in Rhode Island, attending Toll Gate High School and the University of Rhode Island. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Science, I traveled extensively where I learned about and studied Naturopathic Medicine. I attended a 4-year Doctoral program in Naturopathic Medicine, and I am happy to be bringing this expertise back home to Rhode Island.

I have been in medical practice as a Naturopathic Physician and Acupuncturist for 10 years. Prior to moving home to RI, I worked in Connecticut for 6 years as a Naturopathic Physician and licensed acupuncturist. I currently practice naturopathic medicine and acupuncture in West Greenwich, RI at Opus Total Health and have been here for 3.5 years.

Expanding access to Naturopathic care is essential for Rhode Island residents. By including Naturopathic Medicine providers in health insurance, more people can benefit from these care services, including minorities and the underserved. Patients contact my office constantly asking for Naturopathic care to be covered by their insurance.

Including Naturopathic Physicians as insurance providers is cost effective. Please see the attached review from the Colorado Association of Naturopathic Doctors, where cost savings are outlined from a number of studies. Highlights from this show "\$1.5 million in savings for naturopathic wellness interventions over a one-year period." \$1000 per patient savings was noted for patients who used Naturopathic Care for Low Back Pain.

Overall, many patients use naturopathic medicine, and this results in a cost savings for insurance companies. If care is expanded to include insurance coverage, then more patients will benefit, and more money will be saved.

Thank you for your consideration of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Angela McCann, ND, DA

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