



Good evening Chairman Donovan and Committee Members

Thank you for reading the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians' (RIANP) written testimony in support of House Bill H7425

My name is Dr. Chrysanthi Kazantzis—I go by Dr. Kaz. I am a licensed Naturopathic Doctor, the President of the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians, and the owner and founder of Anasa Personalized Medicine, a naturopathic medicine clinic here in Providence.

Naturopathic doctors have been licensed in Rhode Island since 2017. With this bill, we are seeking to make modest but important updates to our licensing statute to bring Rhode Island into alignment with all other licensed states.

First, throughout our statute the title “Doctor of Naturopathy” is used. This language is inconsistent with every other state in the country. Upon graduation, our medical degree is conferred as a *Doctorate of Naturopathic Medicine*, and in licensed states we are titled *Naturopathic Doctor* or *ND*. The current terminology is confusing to the public and inconsistent with national standards. This bill would simply correct that discrepancy.

Second, current law requires naturopathic doctors to maintain a formal consultation agreement with a medical doctor. With our comprehensive four-year, graduate-level medical training, naturopathic doctors are fully qualified to practice independently within our scope. In practice, we already collaborate closely with primary care physicians and specialists when it is in the best interest of our patients. Many medical doctors view naturopathic physicians as valued members of the integrative healthcare team. This mandatory agreement creates an unnecessary barrier to practice, discourages new naturopathic doctors from relocating to Rhode Island, and ultimately limits patient access to care.

We will be submitting amended language and a Sub-A to reflect these updates.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. We respectfully ask for your support and passage of House Bill 7425.