



Dear Representative Shanley and the Special Legislative Study Commission,

I am a Doctor of Acupuncture and I am writing to express my support for licensed Naturopathic Physicians in their quest to become Providers for HMOs. I have seen first hand that a Naturopathic Physician's work can positively impact the health of my patients using preventative medicine.

At my practice, Opus Total Health in West Greenwich, we work in an integrative way with Doctors of Acupuncture, Massage Therapists and a Naturopathic Physician. We regularly receive referrals and refer to Physical Therapists, Medical Doctors, Osteopathic Doctors and other medical professionals.

I endorse this profession and would like to see Naturopathic Physicians become providers for HMOs. Like Acupuncture, Naturopathic care often prevents patients from needing expensive interventions like surgery. The Naturopathic Physician in my office uses dietary interventions and lifestyle education along with supplementation to reduce patient need for cardiovascular interventions and to prevent patients from progressing from prediabetes to diabetes.

Naturopathic Physicians are equipped to handle many chronic conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, dyslipidemia, depression, and type 2 diabetes that increase healthcare system spending and decrease quality of life and longevity.

Like Doctors of Acupuncture, Naturopathic Physicians holistically address the physical/structural, emotional/mental, nutritional/chemical, environmental and spiritual health of their patients. More Rhode Islanders deserve to have access to this form of care. I strongly endorse and support Naturopathic Physicians becoming HMO providers.

Respectfully,

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