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March 27, 2023

Robert Millerick
Deputy Director of House Policy
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: March 29, 2023 Study Commission meeting concerning insurance coverage for Naturopathic Physicians: written testimony in favor of coverage

Dear Mr. Millerick,

In lieu of testifying in person at the March 29, 2023 Study Commission concerning insurance coverage for naturopathic physicians in Rhode Island, I am submitting this written testimony in favor of coverage.

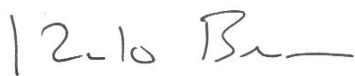
My family has had very positive experiences with treatment from a naturopathic physician. Some years back, my young daughter was suffering from repeated strep throats, eczema, and gut problems. The antibiotics prescribed by her pediatrician had only short-term benefit, and we seemed to be on a merry-go-round of medical appointments, with no end in sight.

So we decided to give a local naturopathic physician, Dr. Keri Layton, a try. After a course of recommended immune-supporting supplements, dietary modifications, and probiotics, her condition improved dramatically.

We were fortunate to have had the financial means to be able to pay Dr. Layton for the costs of her treatments, but many Rhode Islanders whose children also experience repeated strep throats cannot afford this kind of care that is gentle and effective yet outside the insurance system. This is unfair and not even cost-effective.

I urge the House to support insurance coverage for naturopathic physicians and pass appropriate legislation that ensures sensible, universal coverage.

Thank you,



Karlo Berger