

Dear Representative Shanley and the Special Legislative Study Commission,

I strongly support licensed Naturopathic Physicians becoming Providers for my medical plan, BCBS of RI.

I have been a patient of Naturopathic Physician Angela McCann, and have seen first hand that her work can positively impact health using preventative medicine. Her approach focusing on the whole health of a patient is ideally suited for patients in Rhode Island.

Naturopathic Physicians save money for the Insurance Companies. Naturopathic Physicians using dietary interventions and lifestyle education along with supplementation have reduced my need for more expensive procedures. My Naturopathic Physician was able to help me with many issues in one visit, I have had three separate operations on my spine, which has left me in varying degrees of pain for many years. I was taking opioids for those years of pain. I also have been diagnosed with a type of Mastcell disorder. Consulting with Dr. Angela I have been able to stop the opioids and have lost weight and have not had to use my epi pen due to the alerting reactions caused by the Mastecell disorder.

These issues increase healthcare system spending and I am proof that naturopathic medicine has saved my insurance company money, as I have not needed more costly surgeries or medications since I began working with my Naturopathic Physician. Rhode Islanders deserve to have access to this form of cost saving care.

My Naturopathic Physician works interactively with other providers. She refers me to and receives referrals from Medical Doctors, Doctors of Osteopathy, and allied health professionals.

Respectfully,

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