

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of Jennifer Hampton
<mailagent@thesoftedge.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:02 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Registration of Naturopathic Doctors

CAUTION: ****EXTERNAL SENDER**** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commission:

IRRC # 3324
Agency # 16A
ID# 4953

As a Naturopathic Doctor in southwest Pennsylvania, I wholeheartedly support registration of Naturopathic Doctors in our state. Registration of Naturopathic Doctors fortifies distinction of our national standards for education and training from federally accredited naturopathic medical colleges by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). Registration further assures Pennsylvania residents that their Naturopathic Doctor's title, with the N.D. designation, has the competencies of graduate naturopathic medical education and training in order to practice in PA.

I completed my naturopathic medical education at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. After graduation, I practiced in Oregon where naturopathic doctors are successfully regulated and integrated with other medical professionals. In 2021, I returned to my home state of Pennsylvania with a vision of increasing access to naturopathic care. However, navigating the gray area of what it means to be a naturopathic doctor in this state has been challenging. I believe registration will provide necessary clarification for the benefit of local naturopathic doctors, the healthcare system, and Pennsylvania residents. I have outlined several of these benefits below.

Benefits to PA naturopathic doctors:

1. Provide clear and reasonable standards for creating/maintaining a naturopathic practice.
2. Increase access to business/practice resources. (For example, my bank did not have a category for naturopathic doctors when setting up a business account. Also, I had difficulty finding professional insurance that understood my title and provided coverage for my services in PA).
3. Allow for greater collaboration with the broader healthcare community.

Benefits to the healthcare system:

1. Increase opportunities for integrative care. Health care providers and organizations will feel more confident in working with registered naturopathic doctors.
2. Fill a gap in the healthcare system regarding modalities such as nutritional supplements, herbal medicine, and homeopathy. Naturopathic doctors are experts in understanding how these modalities integrate with conventional care in a safe and appropriate way.

Benefits to the public:

1. Understand the qualifications and role of a naturopathic doctor in healthcare.
2. Access safe, appropriate, and cost-effective naturopathic support for improved health.
3. Experience streamlined care, given the improved integration of naturopathic doctors into the healthcare community as outlined above.

Thank you for your consideration of how to best support the health and wellbeing of your fellow Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hampton
201 Fife Farm Lane
Canonsburg, PA 15317-3377