

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of Sarah Spatz <mailagent@thesoftedge.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:44 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Registration of Naturopathic Doctors

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Dear Commission:

IRRC # 3324
Agency # 16A
ID# 4953

I wholeheartedly support registration of Naturopathic Doctors in Pennsylvania. Registration of Naturopathic Doctors fortifies distinction of their 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.

It's unfortunately that NDs are not already a part of the PA health care system. I think it is crucial to allow well rounded health care not just from those who are pharmaceutically driven. NDs often know information about means that are more natural or have less or no side effects when dealing with many common ailments. We've had issues finding a gastroenterologist that is nutrition minded and supportive of alternatives to things like Miralax for children especially when it is not even approved for long term use or for use with children.

We have had to pay out of pocket for an ND in the past because going through insurance was not an option.

NDs need to be seen for what they are... well rounded, educated medical professionals with training similar to (but perhaps expanded beyond) that of MDs. I find the need for their well rounded approach hugely important to our society, communities and health care system.

Sincerely,

Sarah Spatz
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