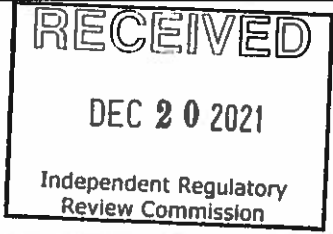


3324

Kathy Cooper

From: mikael brucker <mikael.brucker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:51 PM
To: IIRC
Subject: Registration of Naturopathic Doctors



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IIRC #: 3324

Agency #: 16A

ID#: 4953

Dear IIRC,

I am a naturopathic doctor practicing in PA and I would like speak on the importance of passing of the registration bill.

1) It would protect board certified naturopathic doctors
I currently have to educate my patient's and the public at large as to who is a naturopathic doctor. Some will say things along the line of 'oh yes, I saw a naturopath before' only for me to find out that the other naturopath had completed a weekend course. There is room for both practitioner in the state, but there needs to be clear distinctions so that the public can separate my training and expertise, which is training as a primary care doctor, from the traditional naturopaths. I urge you to protect the terms naturopathic doctor and ND for those who have completed four years and passed vigorous board examinations.

2) Legitimacy for our profession
Currently, my naturopathic license is issued from the state of Vermont. This leads to questions from patients and colleagues as to why? which undermine the legitimacy of my practice. If we had registration in PA, I could proudly display my local registration.

3) It would attract more naturopathic doctors to the state
There is a appetite for the medicine in our state. I have successfully built a busy independent practice over the past three years. But I have felt much safer, because I have malpractice insurance through my acupuncture license. I moved back to the state in 2018 after finishing my medical education. I believed that the registration act was already in place as it had passed through the legislature in 2016. I am not sure if I would have come back knowing that naturopaths were not registered in the state yet. I know that with a registration act it will attract more naturopathic doctors to the state.

Thank you for your time listening to my story.

Kindly,
Mikael