

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of Heidi Weinhold
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Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:07 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Registration of Naturopathic Doctors

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Dear Commission:

IRRC # 3324
Agency # 16A
ID# 4953

My name is Heidi Weinhold ND and I completed a four-year doctoral program in Naturopathic Medicine from Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Arizona. I served 12 years, as the legislative chair for the Pennsylvania Association of Naturopathic Physicians (PANP), working with legislators to promote legislation to license Naturopathic Doctors in Pennsylvania. A giant step towards this effort was achieved with the passage of House Bill 516 in 2016. Naturopathic Doctor Registration Act provides title protection and registration for Naturopathic Doctors graduating from accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges.

Naturopathic Doctor Registration Act protects the titles "Naturopathic Doctor" and "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine". Per the language of the statute, those titles are reserved for NDs who have attended accredited naturopathic medical schools and have passed national competency exams. This is consistent with the other 22 US jurisdictions that currently license or register Naturopathic Doctors (NDs), where "ND" is the universally recognized abbreviation for Naturopathic Doctor. If lay practitioners continue to use the ND designation behind their name there is a risk of causing confusion. They will be considered Naturopathic Doctors by the public, without having formal training.

Naturopathic Doctors are highly trained specialists in the areas of nutrition, herbal medicine, and are the only group of medical providers trained in herb-drug and herb-nutrient interactions. In many states, Naturopathic Doctors work side by side with medical doctors to provide integrative care and routinely consult with MDs on drug-herb interactions and natural alternatives to conventional care.

The registration of Naturopathic Doctors will help patients who are seeking naturopathic medical care select qualified practitioners. Registration of Naturopathic Doctors would give Pennsylvania residents a choice in their health care.

Thank you for your efforts to complete the rules and regulations process for Naturopathic Doctors and to ensure protection of the citizens of Pennsylvania. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Weinhold
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