

## Help Your Naturopathic Physician Help You!

As a valued patient and supporter of naturopathic medicine, we want to make you aware of an opportunity to **share your thoughts** with the Washington State Department of Health as part of an in-depth review aimed at evaluating whether naturopathic scope of practice in Washington should be expanded.

WANP ADVOCACY 2024 SUNRISE REVIEW

SB 5411 WOULD **EXPAND ND PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY, ENABLE NDS TO SIGN ALL HEALTH CARE DOCUMENTS, AND MODERNIZE LANGUAGE** TO ENABLE NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS TO SERVE MORE FULLY AS **“PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS.”**

**SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT TODAY.**

SUNRISE@DOH.WA.GOV

WANP.ORG/TAKE-ACTION COMMENT BY NOVEMBER 20

Our profession has been working on this effort for the past 10 years - ever since naturopathic doctors were fully included in Apple Health/Medicaid as primary care providers. Put simply, **the goal is to better align our scope of practice - including our ability to prescribe any medications that are routinely prescribed by a primary care provider - with our extensive training and legal recognition as primary care physicians.**

**From now until Monday, November 20, 2023**, the Department is accepting written comments from anyone interested in participating. The Department is interested in hearing from a broad array of

people, **including patients and allied healthcare professionals.**

If you are willing and able to submit a comment, know that the Department is most interested in ensuring that **the public will not be harmed** if naturopathic scope of practice is expanded, and that both the Department and lawmakers in our state are interested in how this legislation would **increase access to care** and **reduce costs**. With that in mind, we have made a brief list (which is by no means exhaustive!) of situations that you may have experienced that would improve if this legislation moves forward. This list is meant to inspire and not to limit. The Department is interested in unique and individual stories, so use this opportunity to really **speak your own truth!**

Some stories that could be useful to share:

- If you take a medication that is not currently in the scope of practice of your Washington-licensed naturopathic physician. (Some examples might be medications for ADD/ADHD, panic attacks, anxiety, insomnia, and more.)
- If you have had to initiate or maintain care with another provider simply because your naturopathic physician cannot prescribe or taper your medication.
- If you are seeking medication support for addiction.

- If you have undergone a procedure that required temporary pain management and you were referred to your primary care physician for that management, but your naturopathic primary care provider could not prescribe the pain medication you needed.
- If you have needed a medical form signed that you were told could not be signed by your naturopathic physician. (Some examples might be sports physicals or return to play forms, POLST forms, hospice orders, disability paperwork.)
- If you or your child has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by an appropriately trained and credentialed naturopathic physician, but you've been told that the diagnosis will not be accepted because it was made by a naturopathic physician.
- If you have had to wait for weeks or months for a non-urgent medical visit or for a visit with a provider to prescribe a medication that is routinely prescribed in the primary care setting.
- If you live in a rural location where it is difficult to get in to see a primary care provider or where you cannot get all of your primary care needs met with your naturopathic physician.
- If you have had to spend additional money, take time off work, or been unable to afford to do these things just to seek care of other providers for things you would normally get from your primary care provider.
- If you are a patient of a provider who has to change your care plan depending on if you are seeing them in Washington or in a state with a more advanced scope of naturopathic practice like Oregon, Arizona, Vermont, etc.
- If you have experienced the attentive, compassionate, safe care of a well-trained naturopathic physician and you believe their scope should match their responsibilities as recognized primary care providers.

Whatever your story of how naturopathic medicine has helped you and how this legislation could help you further, **we hope you'll submit it to [sunrise@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sunrise@doh.wa.gov) by 5 pm on Monday, November 20, 2023.**

Visit <https://www.wanp.org/take-action/> for additional information and links.

We're grateful for your support!

The graphic is a square with a dark background. At the top left, it says 'WANP ADVOCACY' and at the top right, '2024 SUNRISE REVIEW'. In the center, there is a large QR code. To the right of the QR code is the logo for the Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians, which includes a green leaf-like symbol and the text 'WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS'. Below the logo, the word 'Advocacy' is written in a cursive font. At the bottom of the QR code area, there is a green bar with the text 'WANP.ORG/TAKE-ACTION' in white. At the very bottom of the graphic, it says 'SUNRISE@DOH.WA.GOV' on the left and 'COMMENT BY NOVEMBER 20' on the right.