



## Letter of Support for Appropriate Oversight And Regulation of the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine in North Carolina

*Federation of  
Naturopathic Medicine  
Regulatory Authorities*

August 29, 2018

Dear Members of the North Carolina Naturopathic Medicine Working Group,

The Federation of Naturopathic Medicine Regulatory Authorities (FNMRA) supports regulation of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina. Regulation is integral to the promotion of safe naturopathic practice and protection of the public.

The FNMRA's mission is to protect the public by connecting regulatory authorities and promoting standards of excellence in the regulation of naturopathic medicine. The Federation supports new and existing regulatory organizations in fulfilling their statutory obligations to regulate the profession in the interest of public protection. The FNMRA envisions a coordinated regulatory system for naturopathic medicine throughout the United States.

The members of the FNMRA are composed of state naturopathic licensing/registration boards and committees. Within our membership, there are a variety of different regulatory models.

- Autonomous naturopathic medicine board: Hawaii, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington have boards that license and regulate only naturopathic doctors (NDs). For states with large numbers of NDs, this model provides the independence and focus required to regulate a large population of licensees.
- Alternative and complementary health practitioners' board: For example, Maine regulates NDs along with acupuncturists, and Montana regulates NDs along with direct-entry midwives. In this model, two or more types of health practitioners are regulated by one board and the administrative burden is shared.
- Naturopathic advisory committee that reports to the Medical or Osteopathic board: California, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, and Minnesota use this regulatory model. The naturopathic advisory committee does the work of regulation and reports its findings to the medical/osteopathic board, which uses its authority to implement investigations or disciplinary actions. This regulatory model is effective for providing the necessary naturopathic expertise to the existing medical regulatory structure. Some states that use this regulatory model, find that it has the advantage of providing to the medical community a better understanding of the scope of naturopathic education.
- Naturopathic advisory committee that reports to the state office of Occupational Licensing or Professional Regulation: Colorado, Utah, and Vermont use this regulatory model. This model is similar to the one described above.

North Carolina has many practitioners of alternative medicine. Some of these practitioners identify themselves as being qualified to provide naturopathic medical care, but they have little formal training and are not qualified to diagnose and treat disease. Regulation of naturopathic medicine ensures that naturopathic doctors are competent by establishing educational and practice standards. Furthermore, a naturopathic medicine regulatory structure will allow enforcement of the state's rules by monitoring licensee activity and implementing disciplinary actions.

As a member of this working group, you are a champion of public safety. Your support of naturopathic medical regulation will protect the citizens of North Carolina from untrained "naturopathic" practitioners who may cause harm.

If you have any questions, please call me at 503-244-7189.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Braden ND', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Shannon Braden, ND  
FNMRA Program Director