

Kevin Purnell II
BELGRADE
LD 1128

Esteemed Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to urge your support for LD1128, An Act to Modernize the Formulary for Naturopathic Doctors, a bill that would finally remove unnecessary barriers preventing naturopathic doctors (NDs) from providing the care that countless Mainers desperately need.

Right now, Maine's outdated restrictions are hurting real people—families, children, seniors, and chronically ill patients who are already struggling. Patients who rely on naturopathic doctors often face delays, unnecessary referrals, and out-of-pocket expenses simply because their trusted provider isn't allowed to prescribe even the most basic, non-controlled medications.

I have personally faced these challenges, and I can tell you—it is frustrating, disheartening, and at times, even dangerous. Consider a gentleman battling chronic Lyme disease, experiencing debilitating fatigue, joint pain, and neurological symptoms—only to be told that his naturopathic doctor, who has been guiding his treatment for years, cannot prescribe the very medication that could ease his suffering and prevent further deterioration. Imagine a mother whose child is sick with a painful infection, being forced to wait for another doctor's approval while her child suffers. Picture an elderly patient, too exhausted to go to yet another appointment, giving up on treatment altogether because the system makes it too difficult.

With hospitals closing in the area, the situation is even more dire. Many communities are losing access to critical healthcare services, forcing patients to travel even farther for basic care. When a patient in a rural town no longer has a hospital or primary care physician nearby, their naturopathic doctor may be the only provider they can see. But under current law, that doctor can't even prescribe a simple medication that could relieve suffering and prevent a condition from worsening.

This bill isn't about expanding the scope of naturopathic doctors recklessly—it's about fixing an unfair system that forces patients into unnecessary suffering. It ensures:

- Safer, more efficient care by allowing NDs to prescribe non-controlled legend drugs from a carefully regulated, evidence-based formulary reviewed by medical and pharmacy experts.
- Patient choice and affordability by reducing the financial and emotional burden of extra appointments just to obtain common, non-controlled medications.
- Stronger healthcare access for rural and underserved communities, where naturopathic doctors often fill critical care gaps—gaps that are widening with every hospital closure.

Neighboring states like New Hampshire already have these regulations in place, and it works. There is no reason Maine families should be forced to suffer under outdated rules when a clear, safe, and proven solution is available.

At the end of the day, this is about patients. Their pain. Their time. Their right to access the care they trust without unnecessary barriers. The status quo is forcing Mainers to wait, suffer, and pay more than they should. How many more families must endure this before we fix it?

I ask you—please support this bill and stand with the people of Maine who are tired of navigating a broken system. Lives are being impacted every single day. Let's stop making patients jump through hoops for care they should already have access to. Thank you for your time and for fighting for the well-being of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Kevin Purnell II