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Hello: [SEP] I would like to testify as to the reasons for allowing Naturopathic Doctors to prescribe a wider range of treatments and medicines:

A conventional doctor who works in a big hospital (not private MD) does not have the time nor dare I say the patience to prescribe unpatented helpful drugs, even if they may indeed be extremely effective. Some drugs have patents that have expired, and expired patents do not help rake in the big bucks. "New and improved" patented drugs are the ones the pharmaceutical industry get doctors to push. And in an institutionalized medical setting, Medical Doctors are subject to ridicule and scrutiny lest they even venture to treat with other than the "standard of care." Having a Standard of Care is good, but is it ALWAYS the best possible solution? MDs (not private MDs) most often have very little/no training in other modalities of healing. They are trained to be experts in drugs and drugs only. Unfortunately, they often know nothing about nutrition. In fact, I had one doctor tell me, "I don't know," when asked about the diet I should follow.

Naturopathic Doctors, on the other hand are trained in a more well-rounded fashion. They know about diet, they know about herbs, they know about acupuncture, massage, infrared sauna, ozone therapy, Exercise with Oxygen Therapy, and so on. There are ND Specialists for all these things. Further, I would be more willing to take a medication if it were prescribed by an ND because, they would more likely know about any possible interactions that the drug might have with, say, an herb that I might be taking. All that to say, even if a regular MD (no offense to regular MDs) was able to prescribe a drug, I venture to say that they might not know as much about it than an ND would.

Another reason that Naturopathic Doctors should be able to prescribe a wider range of drugs and therapies is that it's more cost effective for the patient. I had to go to a different doctor, a private MD, to get a specific treatment that my ND was not allowed by law to administer. As a result, I had to pay much more per hour for the MD, and even then, he was unwilling to answer over a certain amount of questions through email without me being charged. My ND on the other hand would never do that (perhaps she's just too nice)! Nevertheless, the MD, through no fault of his own, did not have as thorough an understanding of my health needs.

This brings me to a very important point: In this case I mention above, my NP knew much more about me than the MD who was allowed to prescribe the treatment. He was unable therefore, to do as effective a job as my ND would have. I came away from the situation healthy and unscathed, but still, it will be great moving forward, if I could just go to my ND as a one-stop-shop.

For the reasons listed above, I ask you to work toward allowing Naturopathic Doctors to more fully exercise their expertise, thus allowing them to prescribe the treatments and drugs that their patients need. Thank you and may you be well!