

Cayford, Edna

From: Lee Wylie <lee@tlwylie.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:02 PM
To: Cayford, Edna
Subject: In Support of the Major Substantive rules provisionally adopted by the Board of Complementary Healthcare Providers

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

I am writing in strong support of the proposed rules as written for the naturopathic formulary.

As a patient, it is important to me that my naturopathic doctor be granted the authority to provide more comprehensive and coordinated care. A modernized formulary would allow my naturopathic doctor to manage my medications appropriately and to prescribe medications I may need now or in the future. I feel safe having my naturopathic doctor prescribe medications because they understand both the natural therapies I use and how those therapies may interact with pharmaceutical drugs.

I offer my support as a patient who has battled Lyme disease and tick-borne coinfections for more than five years. During that time, I have experienced firsthand the challenges patients face when their conditions are not consistently recognized or addressed in conventional medical settings. Many primary care providers in Maine are unwilling or unable to engage in ongoing discussions about chronic or persistent Lyme-related illness, leaving patients with limited options for care.

As a result, many patients turn to naturopathic doctors, who take a comprehensive approach to care. Naturopathic doctors recognize that patients with persistent Lyme symptoms often have additional medical issues—such as thyroid dysfunction or other chronic conditions—that complicate recovery. They carefully evaluate and manage these interconnected health concerns.

However, under current rules, patients with conditions such as high blood pressure must maintain separate relationships with conventional providers solely to obtain necessary prescriptions. This fragmented system is inefficient and burdensome for patients. Allowing naturopathic doctors to prescribe most medications would improve continuity of care and better serve patients managing complex, chronic illnesses.

I have also spoken with several Lyme disease patients in Maine who did not respond to initial oral antibiotic treatment but improved after receiving IV antibiotic therapy under appropriate medical supervision. The proposed rules would allow naturopathic doctors to administer therapeutic substances intravenously, a service already available to patients in neighboring states. Expanding access to this care in Maine would benefit patients by reducing delays, travel burdens, and treatment gaps.

Lyme disease remains a significant public health concern in Maine. According to the CDC, nearly half a million people in the United States contract Lyme disease each year, and Maine has one of the highest incidence rates in the nation. As these numbers continue to rise, it is critical that patients have access to qualified, well-regulated providers who can meet their medical needs safely and effectively.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to approve the proposed naturopathic formulary rules as written.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
T. Lee Wylie