

Written Testimony H.690

Senator Ayer – I would like to follow up with the conversation you had with Virginia Renfrew about Naturopathic Physicians inclusion in H.690. I am available to call into the committee tomorrow morning or anytime on Friday. We believe that H.690 specifically, as well as all references to “clinicians” in this chapter of the statutes would apply to ND practices/services. Because we are primary care providers, we do engage in the care that is the subject of these statutes. My office has six Naturopathic doctors (two associates and four residents) providing primary care to over 2,000 vermonters. From what I can understand from this statute, our inclusion would result in more work for us but it would allow those patients who have chosen us for their primary care for years or even decades, to better supported in their end of life decisions. What I am asking is that "Naturopathic Physicians licensed to practice under 26 V.S.A. chapter 81", be added to the definition of a clinician:

(5) "Clinician" means a medical doctor licensed to practice under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23, an osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 1750(9), an advance practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 1572(4), and a physician assistant certified pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 1733 acting within the scope of the license under which the clinician is practicing.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bill Warnock, ND