

Memorandum

To: Senate Health and Welfare Committee
From: Dr. Joshua Green, Vermont Association of Naturopathic Physicians
Date: March 14, 2018
Re: Follow up - H.690 – Inclusion of naturopathic physicians

Dear Senate Health and Welfare Committee,

This letter is a follow up to my memo earlier today, and in response to questions regarding whether it is within our scope of practice to address issues related to DNR orders and COLST.

Although at this point in time most Naturopathic Physicians are in private practice, and most patients in end-of-life care will be attended to in a hospital setting, this will likely change in the near future as Naturopathic Physicians integrate more into the hospital settings.

Furthermore, and perhaps more apropos for this discussion, is that Naturopathic Physicians may be called to patients' homes to attend to them for end of life care. As such it is appropriate as well as necessary for Naturopathic Physicians to be included in H.690.

As primary care physicians, end-of-life care is within our scope. We also must respect any DNR orders in place. For example, if patients need CPR to save their life and they have a DNR order, then we can't perform CPR. If they do not have a DNR, then, as physicians, we are obligated to perform CPR to save their life.

If your committee would like any further information, either about our scope of practice as primary care providers or have any questions whatsoever, I am happy to do my best to provide you with anything you may need.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Joshua Green ND

Joshua Green ND
President, VANP