

February 11, 2021
Terrance Manning II, ND, RMSK, MA

RE: Independent Board of Naturopathic Medicine

Dear Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education;

My name is Terrance Manning II, ND, RMSK, MA. I live and practice naturopathic medicine in Washington County. I've been licensed by the state of Oregon since 2016.

It has come to my attention that there is talk and a realistic possibility of dissolving the independent Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine and consolidating the governance of my profession under the Oregon Health Authority.

I am deeply troubled by this possibility and hope that you will make sure this does not happen. The Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine has been an independent board administering and governing the practice of naturopathic medicine in our state since 1927. Simply dissolving the board and consolidating the administration and governing of Oregon licensees seems like an unprecedented and unnecessary step. Furthermore, it is unclear as to what the advantage would be. There definitely would not be any benefit to the public and/or consumers of naturopathic medicine, nor our licensees. Perhaps the state could save some money, but if monetary policy is all that is at stake, I'm sure the board could be self solvent (if not already) simply by increasing our licensing fees.

Me and the rest of my colleagues would rather pay higher licensing fees in order to keep our licensing board independent and without further supervision by unnecessary and hazardous layers of management that most likely know very little about what makes naturopathic medicine special, and important to maintain as a real and viable choice for how Oregonians choose to pursue their healthcare.

Sincerely,

Terrance Manning II, ND, RMSK, MA
Attending Physician; Restore PDX