

March 12, 2015

Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: HB6797 Naturopathy

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am a patient of a naturopathic physician. I believe in and like the naturopathic medical approach and would like my ND, and other NDs, to have medication prescriptive authority consistent with their current training.

I ask your support to allow naturopathic physicians (NDs) the same prescriptive authority consistent with many other states that license NDs.

I was introduced to Dr. Michael Mendribil, ND in 2005. I was having severe stomach pain for over a month. I went to three different MD's, had CAT scan's and bloodwork performed and was diagnosed with diverticulitis. My MD was suggesting surgery. My husband just so happen to have the CEO of the largest physician network in New Jersey on his board. He was describing my issue to this CEO and he recommended Dr. Mendribil. The CEO described a similar situation where he had spent months in the traditional medical establishment with no relief from his symptoms. One visit to Dr. Mendribil accurately diagnosed his issue as a parasite and after two weeks he was cured. In this case, the patient had to go to a MD to get one of the medications prescribed.

I had a similar experience. After a one hour appointment with Dr. Mendribil, he diagnosed my issue as Candida and a severe case of yeast build-up in my abdomen due to the numerous antibiotics I had taken over the previous year following major surgeries. A two week diet solved my issue with no surgery.

In 2007, I saw Dr. Mendribil because of fatigue. He did some blood tests and urine sample diagnosed me with low hormone and thyroid was able to provide nutritional support but could not prescribe the medicines that I needed. I had to go to MD to have these prescriptions filled.

In 2008, I had foot surgery and was on crutches for 8 weeks. Once I began to walk without crutches, I began to get severe abdominal pains again. Not in my stomach but in my lower back area/kidney area. I went through a regiment of CT's and MD appointments and the diagnosis was a potential kidney stone. Before we went any further, we made an appointment with Dr. Mendribil and within 15 minutes he diagnosed the problem as a muscle cramp in my groin area. He proceeded to stretch out the impacted area and I walked out of the office pain free.

Finally, in 2009, I was hospitalized with a reaction to methotrexate. I had to have a biopsy performed in my lung. I began to experience severe heart burn and acid reflux. I went to see a MD and they prescribed a medicine. Before I had the prescription filled, I scheduled an appointment with Dr. Mendribil and he determined that my upper esophageal sphincter had been displaced when the biopsy tube was removed. He was able to massage and manipulate it back into place and I left his office cured. No prescription required in this case.

Prescriptive authority would benefit me because I will have the best of both worlds, a natural medicine approach combined with conservative medication therapy when needed, both from my ND. I would not have to bounce back and forth between an MD and my ND. While many MDs willing to work collaboratively with NDs, many are not, so I would be able to avoid that issue. NDs are comprehensively trained to utilize prescriptive medications when necessary and other states have had prescriptive authority for years so why not here?

In the end, I would be better served as I would have the ability to receive many more primary care services from my ND which I would very much appreciate as it saves me time, money, hassle and it is more efficient.

Once again, I ask you to support providing prescriptive authority to naturopathic physicians (NDs). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sharon Stone