

March 21, 2011

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Joseph A. Petrarca

SUBJECT: **Cosponsorship of Legislation to License Naturopathic Doctors**

In the near future, I intend to re-introduce legislation to allow for the licensure of naturopathic doctors by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This legislation was House Bill 1784 last session and had 25 cosponsors. I have been and will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Medical Society and other stakeholders on this issue.

Alternative and complementary medicines are becoming increasingly popular across the United States as people are seeking safe, effective methods for the prevention of disease. Each year more than 80 million people seek this type of treatment. The goal of naturopathy is to strengthen the body's ability to heal itself.

The naturopathic doctor focuses on treating the whole person as an integrated system. Naturopathic doctors' professional educational requirements are similar to those of medical and osteopathic physicians, but add modalities of therapeutic nutrition, botanical medicine, natural childbirth, acupuncture, and homeopathy, just to name a few. Naturopathic doctors work in collaboration with MDs, DOs and other health professionals in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the patients. A model for this collection currently exists at the Cancer Treatment Center of America, located in Philadelphia, where naturopathic doctors work with oncologists and other practitioners.

Currently, fifteen states fully license naturopathic doctors, and a number of other states are actively considering legislation that licenses naturopathic doctors.

To cosponsor this legislation please contact my office at 787-5142 or email Binnie Roig at [broig@pahouse.net](mailto:broig@pahouse.net), Destiny Zeiders [dzeiders@pahouse.net](mailto:dzeiders@pahouse.net) or Jeanne Sullivan at [jsulliva@pahouse.net](mailto:jsulliva@pahouse.net)