

November 14, 2011

Dear Legislator:

My name is Diane Paradise and I am living life on bonus years. Bonus years full of quality while living with cancer - all because of naturopathic medicine. I was diagnosed right before my 25th birthday with a rare form of Hodgkins Lymphoma (lymphatic cancer) that is incurable. My doctors hoped that it could be cured because it was found at Stage 1. It wasn't. Six years later, it came back and spread above and below my diaphragm in the lymph nodes. At this point, doctors made it very clear that it was not curable and it would keep coming back slowly getting more aggressive. My conventional doctor wanted to do a bone marrow transplant and ten months of chemotherapy with zero promise of any quality of life for at least two years. Knowing this, I decided to search for an alternative means to make it dormant again in order to maintain some quality of life.

Unfortunately, by choosing naturopathic medicine, I had to leave my home and move to Arizona where natural medicine is licensed and I could get the care I needed. After one week, my energy returned and I went hiking most days after treatment. Hiking as in climbing Camelback Mountain, which was not a leisurely stroll by any means. After three months of IV vitamin C and many other therapies, I had a lymph node biopsy on the only palpable lymph node remaining. It was clear. No signs of cancer. My scan was clear as well.

This was not my last rodeo with cancer and with it being incurable that isn't a surprise. It came back in 2005 and again from 2008-2011. This time last year, I was in a wheelchair and unable to walk because the cancer became aggressive and went straight into my bone marrow. Stanford Medical University and my current medical oncologist agreed that it was now time to start chemotherapy. For the record, my oncologist would not do chemotherapy prior to this because I was doing so well on naturopathic therapies. I started chemotherapy on November 22, 2010. I spent about five weeks incredibly ill and unable to function. Then I started back on my natural therapies to use integratively with the chemotherapy. My board certified naturopathic oncologist (FABNO) was working to regulate my digestive issues brought on by chemotherapy. He started me on an enzyme protocol, which regulated my stomach health and even stopped my hair from falling out completely. By mid-January, I was hiking (remember I was in a wheelchair in November) in Sedona, AZ. After three treatments my PET scan showed that the cancer in my lymph nodes, spleen and bone marrow was almost completely gone. My medical oncologist was shocked by the great results and attributed the fast results to the two medicines working together to eradicate the cancer. After six treatments, my scan showed the cancer completely gone and my oncologist cancelled my last two treatments. My latest scan from UPenn came back clear

Now I live back on the East Coast because my husband works for Boeing Philadelphia and I can't get care here. I have to fly to Arizona, stay with friends every few months to get the care I need. This isn't conducive to staying on top of an incurable cancer. By

having this medicine licensed, it would allow me and many others who use this integratively to have access to it at the level we need it.

I realize that the cancer I live with isn't curable, but because my ND has taken the time to look for the root cause and eradicate heavy metals from my body, eliminate food allergens from my diet, and teach me about how I can best take care of me, I am still here. I am still living a full, quality life. Last year at this time, I wasn't sure if I was going to make it. At 41, I thought my time was up. I did make it and I am here to tell you naturopathic medicine played a huge part in my success.

If you would like to discuss this further, I am available by phone (480) 338-8922 or by email at paradise.diane@gmail.com.

Please consider licensing Pennsylvania naturopathic doctors for me and so many others.

In Health,

Diane Paradise