



The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) is the national professional association representing licensed naturopathic physicians, the leading experts in natural medicine.

Naturopathic Medicine Advocacy Program (NMAP)

A new advocacy program designed to provide multiple paths for the naturopathic community to learn, engage, and help advance health policies all year round.

Historically, the AANP's DC Federal Legislative Initiative (FLI) has been a one-time lobby day event in our nation's capital. But to have a more effective and thorough advocacy program, advocacy needs to occur *more* than once a year.

The "federal legislative initiative" is actually the advocacy work AANP staff does throughout the year rather than a single event. That work includes:

- Meeting with members of Congress to promote policy advancements that benefit NDs and their patients
- Tracking regulatory changes to keep you up to date
- Protecting the medicines used most by NDs
- Generally promoting the advancement of naturopathic medicine in public health

For that reason, we are launching the **AANP's Naturopathic Medicine Advocacy Program (NMAP)**. Your grassroots advocacy will support the work we do at the AANP all year round!

STRUCTURE

The new program will include various regional (and virtual) advocacy trainings open to all members of the naturopathic community, in addition to an invite-only, in-person lobby day in Washington, DC.

REGIONAL TRAININGS SERIES

The AANP will organize several in-person (or virtual) regional trainings on naturopathic medical school campuses in collaboration with students (NMSA) and state leaders (state associations) throughout the year. Collaboration is critical to ensure the event is open and available to naturopathic students, doctors, and faculty.

DC LOBBY DAY

Advocates who apply and are selected to represent the profession at the federal level will be invited to attend a strategic, impact-driven, and goal-oriented lobby day in Washington, D.C., in the fall.

DC Lobby Day Structure

Why is the lobby day invite-only? To maximize the impact of our advocacy efforts while on Capitol Hill! Research shows that trained and prepared advocates have more of an impact in meetings with members of Congress. Additionally, research shows that advocates who meet certain criteria, such as if their member of Congress is on an important healthcare committee or they represent a group of constituents, are more likely to be heard and to have their concerns addressed.

By strategically selecting trained advocates to represent the profession at the federal level, we can increase the chances of advancing our collective policy goals.

There will be an application process, and advocates will be evaluated using a selection-based matrix - a valuable tool that provides a fair assessment of all applicants- to determine who would be the most qualified to attend.

Selection of advocates will be made from a range of criteria that includes:

- If your member of Congress is a chair or member of an important healthcare committee or subcommittee
- If your member of Congress has previously supported the naturopathic profession or has a large number of NDs in their district
- If you've shown interest in advocacy by completing AANP action alerts or attending previous advocacy trainings (virtual DC FLI, DC FLI, in-person campus series)
- If you represent a group of constituents (E.g., president or executive director of an organization or association)
- If you have relationships with members of Congress or their staff
- And more!

Summary

Our new advocacy program structure provides even more opportunities for you to advocate on behalf of your profession! While we may have made some changes, we believe that these changes will make your voice even more powerful in advancing the profession.

Another way we can help you advocate is by facilitating a meeting between you and your member of Congress's district office and staff. This is just as important as meeting with them in Washington, DC and can be a great way to build relationships and discuss issues that are important to the profession.

Of course, we understand that your time is valuable, which is why we also offer action alerts as a quick and easy way to make your voice heard on critical issues like protecting vital medications such as homeopathy and expanding access to naturopathic medicine at the state or federal level.

We believe that together, we can make a real difference and achieve meaningful change for the naturopathic profession.