



AANP Statement of Intent:

Licensure of Naturopathic Physicians and Access to Natural Health Care

The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) represents licensed naturopathic physicians who graduated from 4-year, post-graduate medical degree programs that are accredited through the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the only entity recognized by the US Department of Education as an accreditor of naturopathic medical programs.

Naturopathic doctors (NDs) are specialists in natural medicine who work closely with their patients to establish and maintain long-term health. NDs use familiar, conventional diagnostic techniques and treat illness using traditional as well as conventional therapies, and they prioritize removing barriers to health in order to maximize the healing power of nature. Naturopathic medicine focuses on the root causes of illness, rather than merely treating symptoms, with a patient-centered treatment approach tailored to the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each individual patient.

The AANP is working diligently to transform the future health of our nation and seeks to safely improve access to naturopathic medicine by pursuing licensure of appropriately trained naturopathic physicians in all 50 states. Licensure provides transparency and accountability, and protects public health. To this end, the intent of the AANP's legislative efforts is to:

- EXPAND ACCESS TO NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE BY LICENSING NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT UNDER A DEFINED SCOPE OF PRACTICE.
- PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM UNTRAINED PRACTITIONERS WHO PROMOTE THEMSELVES AS DOCTORS OR PHYSICIANS, BUT HAVE OBTAINED THEIR CREDENTIALS FROM DIPLOMA MILLS.
- PROTECT THE NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR TITLE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EARNED DOCTORAL DEGREES FROM NATUROPATHIC MEDICAL PROGRAMS ACCREDITED BY BODIES RECOGNIZED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
- PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM PEOPLE SEEKING TO TREAT AND DIAGNOSE WITH LITTLE OR NO CLINICAL TRAINING.

The AANP recognizes that many of the therapies used by naturopathic physicians, including nutritional supplements, herbs, homeopathy, and physical forces such as heat, cold, water, touch, and light, are not the exclusive privilege of naturopathic physicians. To this end, it is NOT the intent of the AANP to:

- RESTRICT PRACTITIONERS OF NATURAL HEALTH MODALITIES FROM PRACTICING NOW OR IN THE FUTURE.
- PROHIBIT OR RESTRICT THE USE OF NATURAL THERAPIES TO ONLY LICENSED NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS.