

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Barnett at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 2010, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Iraida Orr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amanda Nguyen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jan Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

John Frederico, representing Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Association
Peter Kimble, ND, Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Association
Lori Blankinship, ND
Alicia Johnson, ND
Dan Morin, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society

Senator Colyer, on a point of personal privilege, introduced his pages for the day who included his daughter, Serena Colyer.

Sub for H 2575 Naturopathic doctors licensure act

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, briefed the bill which would create the Naturopathic Doctor Licensure Act and would change the regulation of naturopathic doctors with the Board of Healing Arts from registrants to licensees. It would also authorize naturopaths to form professional corporations and would provide clarifying language that licensure does not require health insurance to provide covered services.

Senator Barnett welcomed John Frederico, representing the Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Association, who provided a history of the naturopathic licensure effort since 2002. He indicated the original bill had two major components: licensure and an expansion of scope of practice. In a negotiated agreement with the Kansas Medical Society, it was agreed that the current bill being presented for adoption would include support of licensure and a promise to discuss changes in a naturopath's scope of practice in advance of the 2011 session. In other words, the legislation being discussed today excludes any change in the current scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in Kansas (Attachment 1).

Peter Kimble, ND, was present to discuss the proposed legislation (Attachment 2). He reported that Kansas naturopathic doctors are the only doctoral level healthcare providers involved in primary care medicine who are (currently) registered and not licensed. Dr. Kimble noted the credential of "ND" (naturopathic doctor) will be the initials used after a naturopathic doctor's name.

Senator Barnett inquired what type of research is ongoing, particularly, with National Institutes of Health funding (NIH). Dr. Kimble indicated Kansas University is performing some alternative medicine research; NIH does grant funding to naturopathic doctors.

Lori Blankinship, ND, discussed naturopathic education indicating the course of study is 4-5 years with 4,100 total clock hours (Attachment 3). She described the clinical requirements and clinical education required in the naturopathic medicine program.

Senator Haley asked how many naturopathic physicians in Kansas will move from registered to a licensed category should the legislation pass. Dr. Blankinship responded there would be 17 naturopathic doctors. Senator Pilcher-Cook announced her niece recently graduated from a naturopathic medical school.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 2010, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Lecia Johnson, ND, testified that naturopathic doctors practice science-based alternative treatments; they have completed a federally accredited medical school and passed biomedical and clinical board examinations. She indicated that licensure would aid in protecting the ND scope of practice (Attachment 4).

Senator Huntington inquired whether services could be reimbursable by insurance. Dr. Johnson responded that a patient can submit to insurance, and an insurance provider could consider out-of-network reimbursement to the patient. The legislation being considered does not address insurance reimbursement.

Dan Morin, Kansas Medical Society, reported that 15 states (including the District of Columbia) authorize the practice of neuromyopathy. **H Sub for HB 2575** is supported by the Kansas Medical Society in its current form as it does not include a scope of practice beyond their training (Attachment 5).

Proponents submitting written testimony were:

Christy Kennedy, private citizen (Attachment 6)

Stacey Howell, private citizen (Attachment 7)

Marla Rhoden, Director, Health Occupations Credentialing, KDHE (Attachment 8)

Stephanie Revels, MD (Attachment 9)

Ms. Jefferies indicated a technical amendment was required which appears on page 8, line 37; the work "required" should be "require."

Upon a motion by Senator Huntington and a second by Senator Colyer to adopt the technical amendment as discussed by Ms. Jefferies; the motion passed.

Senator Kelsey reminded committee members of **S Sub for SB 501** (licensing of perfusionists) which was passed out favorably on February 24, 2010, from the Public Health and Welfare Committee. On March 3, 2010, the Senate Committee of the Whole made technical amendments to this bill and passed it with a vote of 38-2. Senator Kelsey indicated that to his knowledge, this legislation may not progress further. Therefore, upon a motion by Senator Kelsey to conceptually amend H Sub for HB 2575 to include the contents of S Sub for SB 501 (as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole) and a second by Senator Huntington, the motion passed.

In honor of her niece (a recent naturopathic graduate), Senator Pilcher-Cook moved to pass out favorably H Sub for HB 2575 as amended by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare; the motion was seconded by Senator Huntington. The motion passed.

Chairperson Barnett called committee members' attention to a draft letter to Representative Michael O'Neal, Chairman of the Legislative Coordinating Council and Senator Stephen R. Morris, Vice Chairman, Legislative Coordinating Council (Attachment 10). The consensus of the Public Health and Welfare committee members on February 23, 2010, was that there could be possible inconsistent practices in various bills concerning criminal history record checks for employees and licensees. The action at that meeting was to draft a letter to the LCC to consider scheduling a legislative joint, special committee, or judicial council during the 2010 interim to address this concern. Committee members reviewed and approved the letter for forwarding to Rep. O'Neal and Senator Morris.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
GUEST LIST
March 10, 2010

NAME	AFFILIATION
Lisa Corwin	KSBHA
Marla Rhoden	KDHE
Peter Kimble	KNPA
Alicia Johnson	KNPA
Ligan Keck	Hein Law Firm
Sara Haworth	Intern - Sen. Vicki Schmidt
Bob Williams	Ks Assoc. Osteopathic Medicine
Will [unclear]	



Testimony In SUPPORT of Sub HB2575

Offered by: John J. Federico

On Behalf of: Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Assn

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

March 10, 2010

I am pleased to stand before you today on behalf of the Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Association (KNPA) in strong support of Sub HB 2575.

I worked with these folks during the 2002 Session and came to appreciate who they were and what they did. During that time, two things became clear to me: 1) that the legislature should ensure that there are a variety of medical care options for consumers who desire such care, and 2) that there is a clear distinction and designation between properly-educated naturopathic doctors and those who merely hold themselves out as such. In short, there IS a place for this type of medicine, and as such, the public should be protected against those who don't meet the credentialing standards.

In 2002, at the recommendation of the KDHE Credentialing Committee, the KNPA came to the legislature to seek licensure and to codify their scope of practice. Similar to this year's effort, the 2002 "turf battle" was heavily negotiated with the Senate passing a bill recommending Licensure for naturopathic doctors, and the House merely Registration. In summary, the result of the 2002 effort was registration over licensure, and a limited scope of practice. Disappointed, the KNPA accepted the sentiments offered by the House that... "You all have to walk before you run."

Naturopathic doctors have practiced in a severely limited fashion in Kansas since 2002. They have been "good players" in following the law, and have provided excellent care to thousands of Kansas consumers who sought their care with few, if any incidents.

After 8 years of patience, they are back before the legislature and through Sub HB2575 are respectfully asking that the Kansas Legislature recognize their valuable place within the medical care community and provide for full licensure.

The bill before you today, in its ORIGINAL form had two major components, licensure and a reasonable expansion of scope of practice. In a negotiated agreement with the Kansas Medical Society, the two sides entered into an agreement in support of licensure and a promise to discuss changes to the scope of practice in meetings over the summer and fall, in advance of the 2011 Session. (See attached agreement)

The KNPA, and to the best of our understanding, the KMS have honored that agreement and we urge your support of the amended bill.

Senate Public Health & Welfare
Date:
Attachment:

03/10/10

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The KNPA and the KMS have agreed to the following, as it relates to HB2575:

1. The KMS will accept the language in HB2575 as it pertains to the licensure of qualified doctors of naturopathy.
2. The KNPA has agreed to delete all references in HB2575 related to any expansion in their scope of practice. (see balloon amendment)
3. The KMS and the KNPA have agreed to meet over the summer and fall of 2010 to engage in meaningful discussions about an expanded scope of practice for naturopathic doctors.
4. The KNPA has agreed to address KMS' concerns related to their desire to limit use of the term/label "physician" and "doctor." (see balloon amendment)
5. The KNPA agrees to remove from HB2575, and language that allows for naturopathic doctors to do child health assessments for schools. (see balloon amendment)
6. Both parties have agreed to make no efforts to further amend the bill if it remains in its agreed-upon form/language.

NOTE: In a negotiated agreement, unrelated to the KMS, the KNPA has agreed to add language to HB2575 if deemed necessary that that would create an exception to any pertinent statutes that would mandate insurance coverage for the treatment by a licensed naturopathic doctor. (see Furse amendment)

By Agreement:

February 16, 2010

Jerry Slaughter: KMS

Peter Kimball: KNPA

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

RE: HB2575

Peter Kimble, ND

The Kansas Naturopathic Physicians Association (KNPA) appeared before the credentialing committee of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) four times over a four-month period in 2001. The committee approved naturopathic doctors for licensure based on nine different criteria. The KDHE Secretary agreed and forwarded his recommendation to the legislature. In 2002 a licensure bill was reviewed and passed by the senate and sent to the house. The licensure bill was amended in the House to read registration and naturopaths were told to return later for licensing.

Technically the difference between registration and licensing is that registration is a title protection act only while licensure is protection of title and scope of practice. A significant minority of the population wants and even demands naturopathic care. Passage of this bill would hold naturopathic doctors to the highest level of training and accountability and protect the public from unlicensed practitioners.

There is no national precedent for the registration of naturopathic doctors who have attended federally accredited graduate level schools, passed national board exams, and are eligible for licensure in twenty one other jurisdictions, over a third of the states.

Kansas Naturopathic doctors are the only doctoral level health care providers involved in primary care medicine who are registered and not licensed. Licensing naturopathic doctors would clarify our status with malpractice insurance providers and with NIH funding to naturopathic doctors involved in research in Kansas. Natural medicine health care consumers deserve the same regulation of their health care professionals as their counterparts in the conventional medical community

The Kansas Medical Society requested wording in our bill that would more clearly define what initials naturopathic doctors may use after their name. NMD which is a degree granted by one of our schools and stood for doctor of naturopathic medicine was viewed as potentially confusing and would no longer be used with passage of this bill.

There is an addition to our bill that specifies that there will be no mandatory insurance reimbursement for naturopathic doctors. This was added at the request of the medical society and Kansas Health Care Association.

Our bill also adds naturopathic doctors to the list of professions that may form professional corporations with other professions or each other.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me the time to address the committee and would be happy to stand for any questions you or your committee might have.

Senate Public Health & Welfare

Date:

Attachment:

03/10/10

2

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
RE: HB 2575
Lori Blankinship, ND

Naturopathic Medical Education Accreditation

Length of study - 4 -5 years

4,100 total clock hours (similar to MD and DO in basic and clinical science)

- The AANMC (American Association of Naturopathic Medical Colleges) recognizes the following accrediting institutions:
- **College accreditation is issued by the US Department of Education (ED).**
All US AANMC member *schools* have been accredited – or are in candidate status for accreditation – by an ED-approved **regional** accrediting agency – North Central for the Midwest – same as KU, UMKC, etc..
- **Programmatic accreditation is issued by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME).** - covers the curriculum
In addition, each of the individual naturopathic medicine *programs* of the member schools have been accredited – or are candidates for accreditation – by the CNME (College of Naturopathic Medical Examiners) the recognized accrediting body for naturopathic medical programs in North America.
- **Doctor licensure is granted by North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners (NABNE).**
Students graduating from the naturopathic programs of AANMC member schools are then eligible to sit for the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations (NPLEX), administered by NABNE. Passing the NPLEX is required before a doctor of naturopathic medicine can be licensed by a state or provincial jurisdiction as a primary care general practice physician.
- **Board Exams** – Basic Science – 1 day / Clinical Science – 3 days

The Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC) was established in February of 2001 to propel and foster the naturopathic medical profession by actively supporting the academic efforts of accredited and recognized schools of naturopathic medicine in North America. The AANMC is a non-profit association.

To earn and maintain AANMC membership, an ND school must be accredited – or in candidate status for accreditation – by a regional accrediting agency approved by the US Department of Education (ED). Furthermore, the school's ND program itself must be accredited – or in candidate status – by the **Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME)**.

The AANMC offers membership to represent the accredited schools, however proper accreditation is a requirement for all member schools.

*Excerpts from Council on Naturopathic Medical Education
Handbook of Accreditation 2007 Edition (pages 45 – 48)*

The Basic Sciences portion of the curriculum provides an in-depth study of the human body, using both lecture and lab. These subjects are taught in the Basic Sciences curriculum:

- a. Anatomy (includes gross anatomy, dissection and/or prosection, neuroanatomy, embryology, histology)
- b. Physiology (Lecture and lab)
- c. Pathology
- d. Biochemistry
- e. Environmental/Public Health (includes public health, environmental health, immunology, infectious diseases)
- f. Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy

Courses in the history, philosophy, and principles of naturopathic medicine are offered in the curriculum.

CLINICAL EDUCATION - The clinical education program provides at least 1,200 clock hours of clinical education. All students complete the clinical education program's prerequisites before beginning the clinical component of their education.

- **The Clinical Sciences** portion of the core curriculum thoroughly prepares students to diagnose the causes of disease and to treat effectively patients who have diseases, using naturopathic therapeutics. These subjects are taught in the:
- **Diagnostic courses**-physical, clinical, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, and differential diagnosis.
- **Therapeutic Courses**-botanical medicine, homeopathy, emergency and legend drugs, nutrition, physical medicine (includes naturopathic, osseous and soft tissue manipulative therapy, physiotherapy, sports medicine, therapeutic exercise and hydrotherapy), psychological counseling, nature cure, acupuncture and Oriental medicine, medical procedures/emergencies, and minor surgery.
- **Specialty courses**-organ systems (includes cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, EENT, gastroenterology, genitourinary system, gynecology, neurology, orthopedics, pulmonary), natural childbirth/ obstetrics, pediatrics, geriatrics, rheumatology, oncology, jurisprudence, marketing principles, and practice management

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Preceptor experience in practicing physician' offices is included in the program's required number of clock hours. Hospital rotations and clerkships, if available, are also included. The program distinguishes between clinical education based on observation, such as observing with a preceptor or in a hospital rotation, and supervised hands-on direct patient care in a naturopathic clinic or clerkship where clinical competencies are to be evaluated and satisfied. At least 60 percent of the clinical education program's required number of minimum hours are in patient care.
- A naturopathic medicine program establishes a minimum for a required number of separately scheduled patient interactions where students perform an assessment and/ or treatment, under supervision, as the primary student clinician. By graduation, a student has had at least the minimum number of patient contacts.
- The clinical education program provides each student with:
 - The medical skills, knowledge, experience, and critical judgment ability necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, management, and referral-making appropriate for safe and effective practice as a primary care naturopathic physician;
 - A clinical experience that integrates naturopathic principles into every clinical interaction;
 - The attitudes and behaviors necessary to establish effective professional relationships with patients, faculty, colleagues, other professionals and the public;
 - The opportunity to treat patients of all ages, and to treat a wide variety of conditions;
 - A firm understanding of medical ethics, cultural and gender sensitivity issues, and the medical consequences of common societal problems;
 - A thorough knowledge of charting and patient record maintenance, including legal requirements (e.g., in the U.S., regulations adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration); and
 - A thorough knowledge of practice management principles.

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

RE: HB2575

Alicia Johnson, ND

According to the Journal of American Medicine, 1 in 4 Americans utilize alternative medicine. Currently, there is only a handful of practitioners in Kansas who are fully trained and educated to safely treat with alternative options. We need more people who are qualified to deal with the growing demand for alternatives. We need people who know how to practice safely and effectively, who are trained in a scientific and educated approach to alternatives.

A Naturopathic Doctor completes an undergraduate degree including the core pre-med classes. Once admitted to a Naturopathic Medical School, the core classes are taught using the same text books as a conventional medical school. The biomedical sciences in the ND program include comparable training in biochemistry, physiology, immunology, pathology, and anatomy. The clinical sciences include gynecology, obstetrics, pediatrics, geriatrics, pulmonology, cardiology, minor surgery, neurology, rheumatology, pharmacology, lab diagnosis, and radiology. We demonstrate our competence with 2 sets of board exams. Once we have done so, our efforts are rewarded by licensure. This license tells the patient that we are trained for the practice of safe and effective complementary and alternative treatments. It means that we can recognize emergency cases, cases that need to be referred, and recognize when we can help safely and effectively. Above all else, the focus of Naturopathic training is on the safety of the patient. We make sure the patient is choosing the safest options. We are carefully trained to understand the standard of care, and how to use alternatives safely. We are trained to understand when the conventional treatment is the only option, and when we can be of great help. For example, when an insulin resistant patient cannot use Metformin because of nausea. When a teenager can't regulate her debilitating cycles with birth control because of a clotting disorder. When a person is properly medicated for depression and they still cannot function. When a woman with a thyroid disorder is fully medicated and her labs look normal, but she still weighs 300 pounds. This is where we can help. We understand more than any other practitioner how to safely and effectively complement conventional medical protocols.

Licensure demonstrates that we are qualified and educated to explain to a patient why they may benefit from following the conventional method of treatment. Licensure and board control makes a medical profession safer and more accountable. Only one other state offers registration rather than licensure of Naturopathic Doctors. This complicates matters because the language used in professional and legal documentation always refers to a licensed practitioner rather than a registered practitioner. There are times when it is difficult to interpret legal information, including with the Kansas Board of Healing Arts,

because license and registration are sometimes used interchangeably. This issue is complex because we are the only doctorate level profession that is registered and not licensed. Licensure will draw more people to Kansas who are properly trained and safe practitioners of alternative medicine.

NDs order diagnostic medical tests because they are trained in primary care medical setting. Licensure helps protect our scope of practice. We must protect the Naturopathic Doctor's ability to practice safely and monitor their patients while they move forward with natural treatments. This means that if we are helping someone manage their glucose, we know precisely how to monitor their progress. Patients benefit from licensure of practitioners. If patients cannot use standard diagnostic health screening tests with their ND's, the ND is less able to practice safe and effective medicine.

Some people feel that Naturopathic Medicine is unscientific and therefore should not be licensed. This is simply not true. When searching "acetaminophen" on PubMed (The US National Library of Medicine / National Institute of Health), you will find 13,857 articles published. Nearly 14 thousand studies reference Tylenol. How do common alternative options hold up in terms of research?

Number of articles listed on PubMed:

Acupuncture: 14, 873 articles

Elderberry: 662 articles

Vitamin D: 47,664 articles

Rheishi: 309 articles

Chromium: 25,516 articles

Glucosamine: 17,842 articles

Astragalus: 4,989 articles

Angelica: 1,026 articles

Black Cohosh: 487 articles

Vitamin C: 43,508 articles

ND's practice science based alternative treatments, they have completed a federally accredited medical school, and passed biomedical and clinical board exams. Given the training of an ND, the "registration" status is incongruent with our qualifications To deny licensure would be unfair and unnecessary.



To: Senate Committee Health and Welfare on Public
From: Dan Morin
Director of Government Affairs
Date: March 9, 2010
Subject: HB 2575; Concerning naturopathy

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to appear to today on HB 2575. HB 2575 as amended by the House would change the regulation of naturopaths from registration to licensure as well as authorize naturopaths to form professional corporations. The bill, as introduced would have authorized naturopaths to prescribe prescription-only drugs, including controlled substances and would have also allowed naturopaths to perform the statutorily required school health assessments on children.

The provision of health care in this country involves a wide array of professionals, and often requires the inter-professional cooperation and collaboration between physicians and professionals from many other disciplines. Many professionals bring unique approaches and skills to patient care, and we respect that diversity. With appropriate education, training and regulation, many different health care professionals can and do provide safe and essential patient care as long as they function within the bounds of their preparation and competency.

Naturopaths were first regulated by the state of Kansas in 2002, when they were granted registration status after a lengthy and detailed legislative process. Though they sought licensure, the legislature instead chose registration as the preferred method of regulation. The Healing Arts Board is charged with the responsibility of regulating naturopaths, and as of December 2009, there were 19 naturopaths registered to practice in our state. Kansas is one of only fourteen states, plus the District of Columbia, that authorizes the practice of naturopathy.

Though we did oppose the HB 2575 as introduced, we have consistently stated over the years that we did not oppose legal recognition for naturopaths, so long as it did not include a scope of practice that was beyond their training. From our review of the available information, we do not believe their training programs contain nearly enough depth, breadth and clinical exposure to warrant the expanded scope of practice authorized in the original bill. The Kansas Medical Society first reviewed HB 2575 just weeks prior to the legislative session; therefore, we were not able to schedule a meeting with physicians from our organization to meet with the proponents of the bill. As we indicated during House hearings on the bill, we are quite willing to meet and discuss the group's concerns, and better understand what exactly it is that they seek in an expanded scope of

practice. We didn't feel like we could support such an expansion without the opportunity, and time, to engage in a meaningful dialogue and become better informed about what they seek, and its implications for patient care. However, in the spirit of demonstrating our willingness to work with this group, we indicated to naturopathic profession that we would support the bill if it were amended to its current form.

Thank you for considering our comments.

HB 2575

Thank you for the opportunity to tell my story.

I was a sickly child, often home from school because of allergies and respiratory infections. I was seen by doctors frequently and given all kinds of medicine. During my 20s I started having frequent migraines, chronic sinus infections and skin problems, mysterious muscle pain and a string of heartbreaking and unexplained miscarriages. I eventually had four children, and during those years I started having anxiety, insomnia, and mysterious episodes of fatigue. By 40 I was having relentless and frequently debilitating gastrointestinal symptoms. At my worst, each week included two, two- to three-day migraines, and round the clock misery so exhausting that for a while I didn't know which was worse, night or day, I became chemically sensitive, stopped being able to digest most foods, and despite a healthy diet, moderate exercise, vitamins, supplements and a constant search for answers, I was prematurely menopausal, routinely anemic, had rapidly thinning bones, was always sick, weak, tired, miserable and was losing weight.

I once tried to tell a doctor I had seen for years—and I meant it—that I had been so sick for so long that I truly didn't know if I could go on. Her reply on her way out the door was, "Of course you're tired, you have four kids." This was a smart and talented woman who had saved the day for us on a number of occasions. But because my health problems fell outside of what she had been taught in med school, she was unable to help me any farther.

All this illness derailed my life. I quit a job I loved and started working part time at home because of the unpredictable nature of how often I was too sick to leave the house.

My true nature? I am an energetic, motivated and happy person. I'm a problem solver with not have a lot of patience. I'm not a complainer. I loved working, I love being a mother, I'm a gardener, a runner, and I have a tendency to do a lot of volunteer work. Year after year, I took good care of myself but got worse and worse. I was offered one prescription after another but never any answers or solutions.

Despite all this, I am still a fan of Western medicine. Everyone in my house is alive today because of it and three of my brothers-in-law are doctors, one of whom directed me to a doctor at KU Med, who was very helpful and who recommended I see Dr. Farhang Khosh, a naturopath in Lawrence where I live.

During my first visit with Dr. Khosh he had a startlingly good understanding of what was wrong with me. He suggested certain blood tests and outlined a smart approach to what we would do and in what order to get me back in good health. His method takes the whole person and all systems into account—what's functioning, what's not, and more importantly, WHY, plus how your physiology affects your life and how your life affects your physiology—and the whole idea is to find the cause of the problem, fix or eliminate it, and then assist and allow the body to heal itself and return to normal functioning. And the whole time, he explains the science behind it.

With a thorough understanding of different healing traditions, both Drs. Khosh offer the best combination of innovative, safe, sometimes very simple and effective treatments. The first time Dr. Medhi saw me he could tell just from looking at me that I was hypoglycemic. Dr. Farhang treated my son for what we think was a brown recluse bite and turned a red-hot, swollen hard and abscessed mass the size of a fist into all normal tissue with a scab the size of a pencil eraser. Time doesn't begin to allow me to tell all that they have done for us.

It turns out that what ails me primarily is a genetic intolerance of gluten, the protein found in wheat, barley, rye and oats, and the basic treatment is a gluten-free diet. This is a common and well-documented but grossly misunderstood and under diagnosed condition. The average time from onset of symptoms to proper diagnosis is 12 years. While undiagnosed and not on a gluten-free diet, a patient can suffer from a wide array of seemingly unrelated symptoms and secondary ailments, worsening as the years go by, and that's what happened to me.

This is an inheritable condition and my children were all much sicker much earlier than I was. With Dr. Khosh's help they have taken charge of their health, are well informed, and have become resources for their friends. My mother, who suffered for much longer, is now at age 78, healthier and more mobile and active than she was a few years ago. Everyone I know who has seen either Dr. Khosh has been surprised, grateful and truly helped in a significant manner.

When my husband fell off a ladder we took him to the emergency room. We see our regular doctor for annual exams (but to tell you the truth, I spend more time telling her what Dr. Khosh is doing for us, and she's sending more of her patients to him all the time). But for everything else in that huge gray area so ill understood by western medicine even though most of it is based on chemistry and genetics, all that determines energy, mood, and how you feel every day — all that so often shapes the course of your life —for that, we turn to Dr. Khosh.

We are unbelievably lucky for the twists of fate that landed the Drs. Khosh here in Kansas. Every now and then I wonder what shape we'd be in otherwise and I shudder at the thought. So I strongly support anything that makes Kansas more amenable to them since they are responsible for our current good health and that of the many many others in their care.

Sincerely,

Christy Kennedy

HB 2575

My name is Stacey Howell. I'm married to former State Representative Andrew Howell, which is where this story finds its beginning.

Shortly after our marriage in 2001, I began to have several health problems. I started experiencing depression, unexplained crying, and fatigue. None of this made sense, since I was happy in my job and my new marriage. I went to see my M.D., and he prescribed Prozac. Andrew asked that before I took an antidepressant I consider seeing a naturopathic doctor. I agreed to go, but reluctantly. I'd had no experience with or confidence in naturopathic medicine, and I wanted my health problems gone immediately.

We went to see Dr. Peter Kimble. After a basic exam and thorough lifestyle questioning, he ran some blood tests. It turned out that I was low in several basic vitamins and minerals, and that my iron levels were low. His recommendation included specific vitamin and iron supplementation. I followed his recommendations, and to my surprise, within two weeks all of my health problems were gone. Needless to say, I never took the antidepressants.

Fast forward to 2009. After the birth of our second child and turning 40, I started to have problems again with depression. I made sure I was taking my vitamins, and was trying to eat right, but over several months things got increasingly worse. My depression got quite severe, and I was experiencing high levels of anxiety. I was physically exhausted most of the time, short-tempered, irritable, and my thinking was foggy. I found it hard to recall things and frequently lost my train of thought mid-sentence.

I felt like I was falling apart, and found it almost impossible to accomplish the basic tasks necessary to keep house and take care of the children. I had withdrawn completely from family and friends, and spent much of my time in bed, depressed, agonizing over the horrible wife and mother I'd become, and yet feeling hopeless to change things.

Once again in desperation, I contemplated getting a prescription for antidepressants. Though I had never taken them, the severity of my situation seemed in my mind far beyond what a few vitamins and minerals could fix. And once again, Andrew encouraged me to try a naturopathic doctor first.

I went back to see Dr. Kimble. After discussing my symptoms, Dr. Kimble once again ran some blood tests, but in addition to the basics he also ran a test to check my amino acid levels. I didn't even know what amino acids were, but soon found out that they are essential to nearly every function of the human body, and that I was significantly low in all but one of the 20 amino acids tested. In addition, I was significantly low in vitamin D, and iron.

Dr. Kimble recommended taking amino acids, iron, and additional vitamins, and in about a month the dark depression was gone. I was still having problems with anxiety and exhaustion, so Dr. Kimble did additional testing and found that several of my hormone levels were low, especially my cortisol levels. Once we worked on balancing my hormones, my energy levels started to increase, and my anxiety levels began to decrease.

Finally, we ran some blood tests to help identify possible food allergies. This is another area that I didn't think much of. But, having had such amazing success so far, I decided to take action based on what the tests showed, and cut out all dairy. I did this in conjunction with getting all of the junk food out of my diet, and focusing on eating lean meats, vegetables, and fruits. (All things Dr. Kimble discusses in a whole body approach to health.) Again, within three weeks a significant piece of the puzzle fell into place as my thinking became clear and sharp once again, and an unexpected bonus, my sinuses cleared up (I regularly used Nasacort and Singulair in the past.)

All of this to say, that working with Dr. Kimble has given me my life back. I can once again be the wife and mother I want to be. I have energy to be involved again with friends and family and feel hopeful about the future. I could never have found my way without Dr. Kimble's guidance, testing, and genuine concern. I have learned now that when something is wrong with my body, like depression (since that almost seems to be an epidemic these days), it's not just that I "have depression." I see these health problems as a warning light—like in a car—my body is trying to let me know that something is wrong and because of it systems are starting to fail. Working with Dr. Kimble helps me to identify what's wrong so that I can give my body what it needs, whether it's vitamins, minerals, more water, more sleep or healthy food.

I urge you to support HB2575 for licensure and enhanced scope of practice for Naturopathic Doctors.

Stacey Howell
201 SE 44th Pkwy.
Topeka, KS 66609
(785) 266-2255



Mark Parkinson, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Jim Barnett, Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
State Capitol, Room 234-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612
BUILDING MAIL

Dear Chairman Barnett:

I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in regard to HB 2575, concerning naturopathic doctors. HB 2575 raises the level of credentialing for naturopathic doctors from registration to licensure.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment administers the Health Occupations Credentialing Act, KSA 65-5001 *et seq.* In accordance with the Act, in 2001 naturopathic doctors applied for a credentialing review seeking licensure. The review was completed in 2002, and the technical committee recommended licensure. The secretary of KDHE at that time, Clyde Graeber, concurred with the committee's recommendation in his report to the Legislature. The 2002 Legislature passed HB 2315, which established registration as the level of credentialing for naturopathic doctors.

The language in 2010 HB 2575 establishing licensure as the level of credentialing for naturopathic doctors is consistent with the findings of the 2001 credentialing review.

If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 296-1281 or by e-mail at mrhoden@kdheks.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla Rhoden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marla Rhoden, Director
Health Occupations Credentialing

c: Susan Kang
Jason Eberhart-Phillips
Joseph F. Kroll

CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1000 SW JACKSON ST., STE. 200, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1365

Voice 785-296-1281 Fax 785-2 Senate Public Health & Welfare
Date:
Attachment:

03/10/10

8



March 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in regard to my relationship with several naturopathic doctors in the Kansas City area. I have found their knowledge in wellness to far exceed mine in ways my medical training did not focus. I believe that the health of this country is changing for the worse. We have several epidemics on our hands: obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and the practice of naturopathy complements western medicine, and helps us address these issues from another angle. I do not think that medications will ever be eliminated from our society, however to see the use and the side effects of medicine decrease would be a goal I think all doctors should try to achieve. I believe with the help of our colleagues, the naturopathic doctors, we can possibly obtain these goals.

I am writing this letter because I believe naturopaths should have full licensure in the state of Kansas.

Thank You,

912 PARK KS 66212

974519989

Stephanie Revels MD.

Representative Michael O'Neal
Chairman, Legislative Coordinating Council
371 East, Statehouse
300 SW Tenth Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Speaker O'Neal:

During a hearing on HB 2323 which deals, in part, with criminal history background checks for potential employees of adult care homes, the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare became aware of what appear to be inconsistent practices concerning the criminal history record check for certain employees and licensees.

On behalf of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, I am requesting that the following issues be considered by the appropriate legislative joint or special committee or by a judicial council during the 2010 Interim:

- Whether state agencies or facilities requesting a criminal history background check should receive a complete or a redacted criminal history report from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and whether the report should include juvenile adjudications or non-prohibited offenses.
- When the criminal history background check reveals information that would disqualify an applicant from employment or licensure, whether the pending employee or requesting facility should receive notification of the reasons for the denial of employment or licensure.
- Whether current differences in the procedure and type of criminal record check information provided to child care facilities and adult care facilities is justified.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Senator James Barnett, Chairman
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Copy: Senate President Stephen R. Morris, Vice Chairman, Legislative Coordinating Council

Senate Public Health & Welfare
Date:
Attachment:

03/10/10
10