



**FACTS ABOUT HB 15-1075:**  
**REGISTERED NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS**  
**TREATING CHILDREN UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE**  
*(Sponsored by Rep. Joann Ginal; Sen. Larry Crowder)*

**HB 15-1075** allows a Registered Naturopathic Doctor (ND) to treat children who are under two years of age if the ND:

- 1) Completes additional continuing education or practicum training specific to pediatrics on a yearly basis;
- 2) Refers children under 2 years of age who do not have a licensed pediatric health care provider to a licensed pediatric health care provider, physician or advanced practice nurse for a wellness evaluation;
- 3) Informs and recommends the Center for Disease Control's most recent immunization schedule for children under 2 years of age;
- 4) Complies with existing statutory requirements, including collaboration with the child's other health care providers.

HB 15-1075 is the result of discussion between Registered Naturopathic Doctors and Pediatricians after the passage of HB 13-1111 (Naturopathic Doctor Act).

HB 15-1075 allows NDs to practice safely and competently with adequate protection for this particularly vulnerable population.

HB 15-1075 sets the stage for collaborative care between registered NDs and licensed pediatric health care providers.

For additional information on HB15-1075 please call:

Betsy Murray 303-478-1207

Ellen Caruso 720-530-3034

Corky Kyle 303-263-5422

**SUPPORTED BY COLORADO MEDICAL SOCIETY**





## **Why Naturopathic Doctors are well-qualified to Diagnose injuries, illnesses and conditions of the human body:**

### ***The Naturopathic Doctor's Education includes:***

- **Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences:** physiology, anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, histology, neuroanatomy, and immunology
- **Clinical Sciences:** clinical, laboratory and physical diagnosis, gastroenterology, pharmacology, rheumatology, endocrinology, neurology, gynecology, cardiology, pediatrics, etc.
- **Therapeutics:** botanical medicine, nutrition, physical medicine, counseling, pharmacology, minor surgery.
- **Each school requires approximately 2800 clinical hours that include proficiency standards in the diagnosis of injury, illness and conditions of the human body using physical exams, ordering of clinical, laboratory and radiologic diagnostic procedures for all life stages.**
- **Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination (NPLEX):**  
Part I includes 5 - 60 minute exams covering anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology and pathology.  
  
Part II includes a minimum 8 exams ranging from 3 hours to 90 minutes on Physical & Clinical Diagnosis, Laboratory Diagnosis & Diagnostic Imaging, Emergency Medicine, Botanical Medicine, Pharmacology, Psychology, and Physical Medicine.
- **Since 2007, the Princeton Review of Medical Schools has included U.S. Naturopathic Schools of Medicine in its annual review of the best 168 medical schools in the country.**
- **The American Council on Education (ACE) and Corporation for National and Community Service named National College of Natural Medicine to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in February 2008 — the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.**





## Colorado Chapter

**Colorado Chapter**  
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2929 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Denver, CO 80204

## **HB 15-1075, Naturopathic Doctors Treatment of Children Under Two**

### **Position: SUPPORT**

**Summary:** The bill removes the prohibition for a registered naturopathic doctor (ND) to treat a child under the age of two. It sets forth statutory requirements on the ND for a standard of care for this very vulnerable population.

**Background:** The Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CO AAP) has worked over the years to help align the wishes of our patients and the community with the best available evidence-based pediatric practices. At times, there is a lack of evidence, and the protection of our vulnerable population from harm becomes a priority.

The care of young infants (ages 0 to 2 years) poses particular challenges. The early identification of developmental disorders, genetic conditions, and behavioral problems is essential to promoting and supporting lifelong health in kids. Provision of necessary and timely immunizations protects the child from serious illness, and provides some protection to the community as well. Young infants are particularly vulnerable to rapid deteriorations in health, and require prompt access to evaluation and care in a medical home.

Mindful of these concerns, the CO AAP has met over the years with representatives from the Colorado Association of Naturopathic Doctors to find common ground and support connections between NDs and pediatricians to attempt to serve our patients' best interests. Families who seek care with NDs often are outside of the traditional healthcare community and have no relationship with licensed healthcare providers such as Pediatricians, Family Doctors, or Advanced Practice Nurses. However, the ND community seeks such connections and is interested in helping support the medical home model as adjunct providers with a relationship with traditional licensed primary healthcare providers (PCPs). Of note, the ND community is relatively small in Colorado at this point, and represents practitioners of naturopathy who have attended a longer curriculum than unlicensed practitioners ("lay naturopaths") and have advanced degrees (doctorate level) in naturopathy (ND).

Recently the Naturopathic Doctors have agreed to the following stipulations if they care for young infants from ages 0 to 2:

- 1). Referral to a physician or advanced practice nurse to provide a medical home, with ongoing communication and relationship with the licensed PCP (MD, DO, or APRN)

- 2). Endorsement of, and recommendation of the ACIP immunization schedule.
- 3). Maintenance of annual continuing education in pediatric healthcare issues, with attention to stabilization and identification of emergency conditions in infants.

The CO AAP supports these provisions and believes they make sense in our state. We hope that through building these connections we can provide for our families who seek alternative treatments in a safe and collaborative way.

Submitted January 27, 2015

Contact: Ruth Aponte, 303-907-1980



## Naturopathic Physicians: Natural Medicine. Real Solutions.

January 30, 2015

Lauren Larson  
Director, Division of Professions and Occupations  
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies  
1560 Broadway, #110  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Larson:

You asked me to let you know the official position of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) regarding the use of immunizations. AANP is a strong proponent of preventive interventions that protect children and adults from infectious disease. Immunizations are one of our most effective tools for doing just that. They play an indispensable role in the nation's public health efforts.

AANP strongly supports including immunizations in naturopathic doctors' (NDs') permitted scope of practice. Naturopathic doctors, as primary care providers, are morally obliged and legally mandated to uphold and carry out public health mandates. We strongly support state laws and regulations that authorize NDs to administer immunizations. Recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases underscore the dangers of not fully immunizing our communities.

An overwhelming body of research makes clear that the benefits of vaccination in reducing serious infectious disease in our communities far outweighs the risk of individual harm. Despite this, many of the patients who seek out care from naturopathic physicians continue to hold philosophical beliefs that may be described as "anti-vaccination." While we may honor the right of individuals to make their own health care decisions, it is important that we not encourage patients in this belief. If NDs do not have the right to administer vaccinations or do not do so in their offices, patients may take this as a statement of opposition to the practice of vaccination. Thus, it is important to keep vaccination within NDs' scope of practice.

Many patients use naturopathic physicians as their primary care physicians. If we are to serve them as such, our doctors need to be able to provide this critical public health service. This is particularly important in two patient populations – the very young and the very old.

AANP of course supports research on the benefits and harms of immunizations. Physicians should be attentive to the proper use of immunizations and should not administer them to individuals with conditions that contraindicate their use.

I hope this is helpful. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely;

Kasra Pournadeali, ND,  
President







# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Board of Naturopathic Medicine

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 407

Portland, OR 97232-2162

971-673-0193

971-673-0226 (fax)

February 4, 2015

Re: Relating to the Care of Minor Children Ages 0 – 2 by Naturopathic Physicians

I am Anne Walsh, the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

As you may be aware, Oregon has been licensing and regulating the practice of Naturopathic Medicine since the 1927 legislative session. Licensed Naturopathic physicians (ND) in Oregon have within their scope of practice the authority to provide care to all citizens of Oregon, from birth to death.


I have served as the agency director since 1998, and have no knowledge of complaints in child care; and even before then there is no record of an investigation initiated for potential harm to a child in the care provided by a licensed ND.

For your reference, the Board does require additional certification for a ND to practice natural childbirth; these requirements are found in OAR 850-035-0230. This certification is for the prenatal and postnatal care of the mother. Once the child is born, any licensed ND may be the care provider of that child.

There is no restriction in the scope of practice for Naturopathic physicians in Oregon regarding who they can provide care to as they the education and training, understanding and compassion to treat all members of a family, including children 0-2 years in age.

You are welcome to contact me directly if I can be of further assistance.

With regards,



Anne Walsh  
Executive Director





February 2, 2015

TO: Colorado House of Representatives  
Health, Insurance and Environment Committee

I am writing this letter in full support of HB 15-1075, Concerning the Authorization for a Registered Naturopathic Doctor to Treat Children Who Are Under Two Years of Age. I serve as Department Chair of Pediatric Medicine at Southwest College of Naturopathic and have been teaching medical students pediatric medicine in the classroom as well as specific pediatric rotations. Naturopathic Doctors do have the basic training to safely see children 0-2 years of age. Naturopathic medical education from an accredited 4-year post-baccalaureate provides students training in the following areas:

- Pediatric-specific medical emergency scenarios such as:
  - Emergency department referrals for fever in infants younger than 3 months.
  - Seizure activity.
  - Growth deficiencies, heart murmurs or other signs and symptoms representing congenital heart disease.
- Appropriate lab evaluation such as blood work or diagnostic imaging including but not limited to X-rays, CT scans, and MRI, to determine safe management or referral of a patient.

The concern I have is in cases of families who are seeking integrative, naturopathic, or alternative health care for their child under 2 years. Naturopathic doctors are professionally trained to be experts in the safety and efficacy of those therapies. If these families do not have access to that kind of care and guidance, they may forego medical consultation altogether putting them in an even greater risk category. In addition, the information they seek and gain from the internet or the local health food store clerk can be inaccurate and dangerous. It is therefore imperative that families have access naturopathic doctors for their children under 2 years, simply from a safety perspective.

Sincerely,

Matthew Baral, ND  
Chair, Department of Pediatric Medicine  
Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine  
President, Pediatric Association of Naturopathic Physicians



**Support HB 1075 – Authorize registered Naturopathic Doctors to treat children who are under two years of age.**

Dear members of the Health, Insurance, and Environment Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 15-1075, which allows registered Naturopathic physicians to treat children under the age of 2.

I am not a pediatrician but am an internist who practices evidence-based integrative medicine in an academic environment. I believe I'm more aware of the nuances of true naturopathic practice and other "natural medicine" than most physicians.

Children under 2 are a vulnerable population and my concern is that if legitimate (registered) naturopaths are not given the ability to treat young children, parents who are interested in natural approaches will seek out non-regulated and potentially harmful natural care. As an example, one of the biggest drivers of parents to natural approaches is the (unfounded but widespread) fear of vaccinations, which puts children and the rest of the community at risk. Well-trained, registered naturopathic physicians are supportive of routine childhood vaccinations and this bill requires the naturopathic physicians to make patients aware of the CDC vaccination schedule. If parents are not allowed to see the trained, reasonable naturopath, they may end up with a "natural" provider who does not support vaccination. This is just one example, and there are many more.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Lisa W Corbin MD FACP**

Associate Professor, Division of GIM, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine

- Medical Director, Integrative Medicine at University of Colorado Hospital

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## Support HB 15-1075

Seeing a naturopathic doctor for our family has been invaluable to our health and wellness. We have recommended naturopathic care to many of our friends and colleagues. We would love to take our infants/young children to Dr. Caitlin O'Connor in addition to the care we receive from our pediatrician.

Naturopathic doctors offer incredible recommendations for pediatric health concerns and this would provide more comprehensive care when combined with standard pediatric medicine.

Just as pediatricians are experts in traditional pediatric care, adding a naturopathic doctor to parents' professional resources would greatly improve the health of our children. **It is the combination of standard and holistic care that really encourages true wellness in the pediatric population.** We hope naturopathic doctors will be able to see children 0-2 years of age soon.

-- Nathalie Cleveland MSN, RN, CPNP

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-- Nathalie Cleveland MSN, RN, CPNP, Centennial, Colorado