Date

Dear XX

Please oppose SB 538 (to Amend the Naturopathic Doctor's Act)

I am a XX Physician who lives in XX, California and has practiced at XXX for XX. I also volunteer at XXX (in XXX) and in that capacity I have interacted with Medical students, Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Physician Assistant (PA) students and ND students in a clinical rotation. I also work at both locations with mid-level providers (PAs and NPs). I strongly support mid-level providers and feel they are essential to ensuring that Californians have access to quality health care.

Given my experience I am extremely worried that NDs could in California get independent ability to prescribe medications. The ND degree is not equivalent to an MD or DO degree. (Moreover, even MDs and DOs have to complete post-graduate training before they are allowed to independently prescribe - which would not be required of NDs) Additionally in my experience ND students are woefully unprepared compared to physicians, NPs or PAs. In my experience ND students do not perform to the level of competency of medical, NP, and PA students. Allowing NDs to prescribe dangerous medications including controlled substances will endanger the lives of any Californian in their care.

Please oppose SB 538.

Thank you,