



Illinois
State
Medical
Society

VOTE NO ON SB 708 – AN EFFORT TO LICENSE NATUROPATHS AS PHYSICIANS

The physician members of the Illinois State Medical Society respectively urge you to vote “NO” on Senate Bill 708, a measure that would license “naturopaths” as physicians.

The education and training of naturopaths does not sufficiently prepare naturopaths to provide medical care, which will have adverse effects on patient safety here in Illinois. Under SB 708, naturopaths would be allowed to provide a full range of medical services to patients in Illinois, including caring for children, those with chronic conditions like diabetes and cancer, and providing specialty care, such as gynecological services.

Naturopathic education focuses much of its attention on botanical medicine, homeopathy, hydrotherapy and counseling. There is no consistent application of evidenced-based principles and scientific study for naturopathic treatments. **The mechanism of action and the efficacy of many naturopathic treatment modalities are not scientifically supported, yet continue to be offered to patients.**

Naturopaths will tell you that their education and training is similar to that of a medical doctor. That is not the case. Under SB 708, the education required to be licensed as a naturopath would include attending an naturopathic accredited four year school, which includes only 4,200 hours of “clinical training,” which is just simply time spent observing other naturopaths.

Physicians, by contrast, not only must complete a four year undergraduate pre-medical program followed by a four year medical school program, with two years of that program committed to clinical training, but they also must complete a hospital based residency program lasting three to seven years.

The residency program is the hallmark of complete medical training, a requirement that must be completed by physicians before they can practice independently. Physicians often remark that they cannot imagine practicing before completing a residency, which lasts for three years for some specialties, like family practice and internal medicine, and seven years for other specialties. The depth and breadth of knowledge acquired from this experience cannot be compared to clinical rotations. Physicians in residency will spend 50-80 hours a week for a minimum of three years treating patients and acquiring the practical and diagnostic skills to provide medical care.

There is no residency program that naturopaths are required to complete. They simply complete limited clinical hours, which again, only entails observing other naturopaths. Naturopaths do not have the sufficient training to provide safe and effective medical care.

Attached for your review is an article written by a naturopath who has since left the practice because she realized that naturopathy is not medicine. To read more on the limitations and dangers of licensing naturopaths as physicians, please visit www.naturopathicdiaries.com.

For these reasons, we respectively urge you to vote “NO” on Senate Bill 708.

Naturopathic Diaries*Confessions of a naturopathic doctor*

Guide to Naturopathic Medicine

As a naturopathic patient, you should know that naturopaths have extremely poor medical education and clinical training. Very little medical science is taught in naturopathic schools, and students get minimal patient contacts. Compared to Physicians (MD or DO) and mid-level practitioners (physician assistants and nurse practitioners), naturopaths receive less training in pharmacology, less clinical training, and many thousands of hours in their naturopathic schools speaking, learning, and practicing fake medicine.

Naturopaths receive extensive training in treating diseases and conditions that are not accepted by the medical community. Naturopaths also over diagnose and over treat conditions to which a regular Physician would approach very differently.

Naturopaths use numerous pseudoscientific methods, many of which have no medical value and others which are very dangerous. As a naturopath, I saw many dubious diagnoses and treatments and witnessed patients needlessly suffer physically, emotionally, and financially.

If you are a patient of any naturopathic practitioner, please refer to the following information sheets (under development) on the testing, conditions, and treatments you might encounter. Some of these are links to other sites which have summarized the issues nicely, while others are based on my education at Bastyr University to earn my ND degree and experience in private practice.

Diagnostics and Lab Tests

- [Genetic testing](#)
- [Food allergies](#)
- Heavy metals
- Neurotransmitters
- Salivary cortisol
- Comprehensive stool analysis
- [Applied kinesiology / NAET](#)
- Hair mineral analysis
- Basal body temperature
- Thyroid / hormones
- Vitamins
- Oxidative stress analysis
- Chemical exposures (phthalates / parabens)
- Porphyrins urine analysis
- Kryptopyrrole testing
- Intestinal permeability
- RBC element analysis