

SCR 8

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE.

Report Title: Mandatory Coverage for Naturopathic Medicine; Auditor Study

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, WAM

Dear Chairperson Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Committee:

In Support

Please vote in the affirmative for SCR_8 which would request the Legislative Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of requiring health insurers to provide coverage for naturopathic medicine.

Mandating this insurance coverage would end many years of discrimination on the part of insurance plans that have not included benefits for naturopathic medicine. It would also help solve the critical shortage of primary care providers by providing insurance coverage for patients to see naturopathic physicians.

Mahalo.

of Michael Traub ND

Chairperson, Legislative Committee
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SCR-8

March 29, 2011; 9am

Committee on commerce and consumer protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

I have been practicing medicine on Kauai for 30 years. Insurance coverage for Naturopathic doctors would make a difference in the health care of the people of Hawaii as more patients would have access to preventative care and successful life style changes for chronic illness such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease. Naturopathic doctors also provide complementary care for cancer patients so that they survive longer and endure cancer treatments with less pain and side effects.

Thanks for your consideration.

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Please support SCR-8! The time is more than overdue to clear up misconceptions about naturopathic medicine and it's impact on mainstream healthcare costs. Similar studies in Washington state showed naturopathic medicine to not only have negligible impact on health care costs, but also showed that it may actually save money for insurance companies.

Aloha,

Dr Sarah Strong, ND
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My name is Dr. Nathan Ehrlich, N.D. I am a licensed naturopathic physician in practice on Maui for over 20 years. During this time I have heard countless times from people in the healthcare insurance industry that they thought that it is time for naturopathic medicine to be made available for the people of Hawaii. As much as it has been thought of as an "idea whose time has come", the time still has not arrived and it appears that some inequality may be involved as by now Chiropractic and Acupuncture have both been included in many health care benefit plans. Naturopathic physicians are trained on par with Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy so I feel it is fair to the people of this state that Naturopathic coverage be made available in their health care plans.

Please vote in favor of requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of requiring health insurers to provide coverage for naturopathic medicine.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Nathan Ehrlich, N.D.