

**Comment on SB17-106**

March 12, 2017

I wish to express my support for Colorado Senate Bill 106 this 2017 legislative year.

I have been a Family Physician in Gunnison for more than 40 years. I have served on the Colorado Health Data Commission and the Colorado Health Policy Council and as President of the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians in the late 1980's and early 1990's. I am also Emeritus Clinical Professor of Family Medicine of CU Medical School. I continue to volunteer for many health related community activities, including, but not limited to: Gunnison County Public Health Officer, Medical Director of Gunnison Valley Health System's Home Medical Services, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Health Foundation and serve alongside naturopathic doctor, Roanne Houck, ND as part of the Community Health Coalition of the Gunnison Valley, of which I am a leadership team member.

I feel that establishing and maintaining a rigorous credentialing and certification process for all types of health care practitioners best protects the health of the citizens of Colorado. This includes the practice of Naturopathic Medicine. Continuing the regulation and registration of Naturopathic Doctors furthers this goal. As the legitimacy of certain forms of alternative medicine becomes better documented, it will become increasingly important that practitioners of these disciplines conform to rigorous standards of credentialing and evidence based practice. Restricting use of the title of "Naturopathic Doctor" only by individuals who have been properly educated and credentialed and who adhere to peer reviewed standards of practice will protect the health of the citizens of Colorado.

The experience in Gunnison is strongly supportive of the ability of different types of practitioners to work together for the better health of their mutual patients. My colleagues who are still in active practice work collaboratively with the local Naturopathic Doctor to maintain and improve the health of the community.

Thank you for your attention.

John S. Tarr, Jr., M. D.