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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas Association of Naturopathic Doctors (TXAND) Files Historic Licensure Bill in 2025 Legislative Session

Austin, TX – In a landmark step for healthcare in Texas, the Texas Association of Naturopathic Doctors (TXAND) announces the filing of House Bill 3979, legislation that would license naturopathic doctors (NDs) in Texas. Sponsored by Representative Briscoe Cain, this bill represents a critical advancement in expanding access to qualified, holistic, patient-centered primary care across the state.

A Solution to Texas' Primary Care Crisis

Naturopathic doctors are trained as primary care providers who are experts in natural medicine, yet in Texas, they are restricted to acting as consultants due to a lack of licensure. Meanwhile, Texas faces a severe primary care shortage, with a 2020 report from the Texas Department of Health and Human Services projecting a deficit of 10,330 primary care physicians by 2032. Over six million Texans currently live in designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

Naturopathic doctors offer an immediate, cost-effective, and safe solution to this crisis. Licensed naturopathic doctors play a vital role in preventative care, chronic disease management, and whole-person health in 26 U.S. states and jurisdictions.

Naturopathic Doctors: Clinically Trained Evidence-Based Natural Medicine

Naturopathic doctors complete a four-year, in-residence doctoral program at institutions accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. The core curriculum features biomedical sciences, including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, clinical lab diagnosis, and pathology.

NDs also receive training in medical diagnosis and treatment, drug-nutrient interactions, pharmacology, nutrition, behavioral medicine, lifestyle medicine, physical medicine, and herbal medicine. Naturopathic medicine focuses on addressing the root causes of illness rather than merely managing symptoms, a fundamental shift in improving long-term health outcomes.

A Turning Point for Texas Healthcare

“This bill will allow naturopathic doctors to fully serve their communities, improve access to care, and help address the growing primary care shortage,” said Amy Nelson, ND, President of TXAND. “Texans deserve more choices in healthcare, and licensing naturopathic doctors will provide safe, effective, and holistic care while relieving the burden on an already strained system.”

What’s Next: Advocacy and Action

TXAND is focused on securing a committee hearing for HB 3979 and ensuring legislative allies and public support continue to build momentum. The United States Congress passed a 2013 resolution recognizing the safety, efficacy, and affordability of naturopathic care. Now, it is time for Texas to follow suit. Texans deserve the freedom to access naturopathic doctors as part of their healthcare choices.

Join the Movement

The Texas Association of Naturopathic Doctors (TXAND) advocates for the recognition, regulation, and licensure of naturopathic doctors in Texas. House Bill 3979 is a long-overdue step towards providing Texans a natural choice in their healthcare.

For more information or to support HB 3979, visit TXAND.org.

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