

# MedChi NEWS

## NATUROPATHS WANT TO DO WHAT?

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

#### MEDCHI OPPOSES A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW NATUROPATHIC PRESCRIPTION LEGISLATION

In the 2025 legislative session, House Bill 867 has been introduced, proposing to expand the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Maryland by granting them prescriptive authority, including the ability to prescribe certain controlled dangerous substances.

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, firmly opposes this legislation due to several critical concerns:

##### 1. Inadequate Medical Training

Naturopaths typically lack the extensive medical education and clinical training that physicians undergo. This disparity raises significant concerns about their ability to safely prescribe medications, particularly controlled substances. MedChi emphasizes that the rigorous training physicians receive is essential for ensuring patient safety in pharmacological treatments.

##### 2. Limited Pharmacological Expertise

The pharmacology education training in naturopathic programs is extremely limited compared to that of medical doctors. This limitation could lead to inappropriate prescribing practices, posing risks to patient health. MedChi consistently highlighted this issue in past legislative sessions, arguing that without comprehensive pharmacological training, naturopathic doctors should not be granted prescriptive authority.

##### 3. Patient Safety Concerns

Allowing naturopaths to prescribe medications without sufficient training may compromise patient safety. The potential for misdiagnosis or incorrect medication management is a significant risk that MedChi believes cannot be overlooked. Moreover, they are not trained to treat adverse reactions to medications when they occur.

##### 4. Lack of Residency Training

Unlike medical doctors, naturopaths are not required to complete residency programs, which provide critical hands-on experience in patient care and medication management. This absence of postgraduate clinical training further underscores the concerns regarding their readiness to manage prescription medications safely.

MedChi's opposition to HB 867 is rooted in a steadfast commitment to maintaining high standards of patient care and ensuring that all healthcare providers possess the necessary training and expertise to prescribe medications safely. The organization urges lawmakers to consider these concerns carefully to protect patient safety and uphold the quality of healthcare.

**GENE M. RANSOM III**  
CEO MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND  
STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY



#### MEDCHI MEMBERS MEETING WITH SENATOR VAN HOLLEN.

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