

My name is Susan Gerken and I am a retired elementary school teacher having taught school in Pennsylvania for 35 years. I became involved in natural health about eight years ago. I had begun to lose extreme amounts of weight and was unable to eat most foods. I went to my family doctor and then to a leading gastroenterologist in the Lehigh Valley. Many tests were performed and I was told the best thing to do was to avoid all foods that bothered me. At this point, there were only a few foods I could eat. Out of desperation, I went to a local naturopath. After explaining my situation to Dr. Dallas, she asked many questions, and through careful evaluation suggested I should eliminate wheat from my diet, take specific natural supplements, and see if my condition improved. In a matter of days, I was able to eat more foods than I had been for several months. My overall health improved rapidly. Dr. Dallas did what many physicians were unable to do.

I now go the naturopathic route first, If there is a way to teach my body to heal itself through homeopathics, nutritional supplements, and diet, I would prefer that.

I know that at times I will need a doctor. If I break my arm, that is where I would go! I believe there is a place in the medical world for both the naturopath and the physician as separate entities. Having the ability to choose which path I want to pursue is essential. These two should remain separate entities with their completely unique approaches to healing. They should work together rather than allow this bill to eliminate pure naturopathic services.

Please allow the people of Pennsylvania the choice. Do not take our freedom to choose our own method of health care away from us. Thank you!