

SAMPLE LETTER

(please personalize)

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request your signature on SB 1050 (Yee)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

As a licensed Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) in California, I strongly urge you to sign SB 1050 (Yee). The bill would protect patient safety by ensuring clear, accountable oversight of the osteopathic medical profession by removing the two seats for naturopathic doctors from the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC).

I believe that in the rush to find budget solutions last year, ABx4 20 wrongly combined the Bureau of Naturopathic Medicine (BNM) with the OMBC. The move, I believe, failed to recognize the longstanding and hard-fought independence of the OMBC, which dates to a voter initiative in 1922. But more importantly, the merger has put patient safety at risk by creating great confusion around the oversight of two professions with widely different training levels, licensure requirements, and professional cultures.

Under California law, osteopathic physicians have rights and privileges equivalent to medical doctors (MDs). DOs can prescribe medications, perform surgery, and specialize in any area of medicine. By contrast, naturopathic doctors do not have full medical training and therefore are unqualified to independently prescribe medications, analyze complex tests, or perform treatments essential to complete patient care. As a practical matter, each discipline is so distinct that the merger yields no savings in either time or workload. Meanwhile, the chains of accountability and basic operational mechanics have grown unclear, jeopardizing both patient and public protections.

I believe that SB 1050 (Yee) corrects the confusion, protects patients, and honors the integrity of both professions. I strongly urge you to sign it.

Thank you for your consideration,