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60+ Mile Run, Feb. 10-12 Aims at Drawing Attention to SB 135, Licensing Naturopathic Doctors in NM

JEMEZ SPRINGS, NM—A legislative bill which would allow Naturopathic doctors to be licensed and regulated in New Mexico is the catalyst behind a 60+ mile run, led by the New Mexico Association of Naturopathic Physicians (NMANP) who want to draw attention for the need to license Naturopathic doctors. “The Run” takes place Feb. 10-12 beginning in Albuquerque with the Sweetheart Run - consists of a 5K, 10K and kid’s 1K run - and continuing from Bernalillo to Jemez Springs, then finishing at the State Capitol steps in Santa Fe.

Currently, Naturopathic doctors are licensed in 23 states and territories. New Mexico is the *only* state in the four corners region that does not require licensing for Naturopathic doctors. The “Naturopathic Doctors’ Practice Act” (SB 135) will be introduced into the 2019 legislative session and is sponsored by Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino.

Trained, accredited Naturopathic Doctors diagnose, prevent, and treat acute and chronic illness by identifying underlying causes of illness, and developing personalized treatment plans to treat patients. Those plans may include herbal therapies, physical/lifestyle medicine, and nutrition.

“Naturopathic Doctors blend natural medicine with conventional diagnosis and treatment,” said Juliette Sweet, president of the NM Association of Naturopathic Physicians, and practicing Naturopathic doctor in Jemez Springs and Albuquerque. “If licensed in New Mexico, we can offer quality care to the communities of New Mexico and serve as Primary Care Providers, which are greatly needed here.”

“A lot of research has been done regarding the benefits of Naturopathic Medicine, which is especially relevant given the opioid crisis in our state and country,” said Sen. Ortiz y Pino. “The passage and signing into law of SB 135 would reduce healthcare costs through early prevention, give credibility to alternative therapies, and have a positive effect on the medical community and its patients in New Mexico as a whole.”

On a national level, The Run symbolizes the goal by Naturopathic Doctors to be licensed in all 50 states. Many Naturopathic doctors and supporters will be participating in The Run.

The Run commences at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 10 at Bosque School in Albuquerque and continues to Bernalillo where runners can get lunch at Kaktus Brewing. The Jemez Springs leg of the run will begin at 3:15 p.m. from The Bluffs National Recreation Area “fishing access” sign, north of mile marker 14 on Hwy 4. The newly renovated Jemez Springs Bath House will be reopened and offering free soaks for runners at 4 p.m. A

“Runception” will follow at Second Alarm Brewing, where the brewery’s in-house restaurant, Monica’s Firehouse Grill, will provide complimentary tacos to runners.

The run will resume on Feb. 11 to Santa Fe, followed by a 7:30 p.m. gathering at Santa Fe Brewing Co. The Run will finish on Feb. 12 in Santa Fe when the runners will walk together to the Capitol steps in support of SB 135. For a complete itinerary, visit www.therun.org.

The entry fee to participate in the entire 60 mile run is a \$75 donation fee. The Jemez Springs leg of the run is \$25. The 5K and kids runs are free. To participate and support SB 135, please register online at www.therun.org. This is a rain or shine event.

For complete information on The Run and Sweetheart Run Feb/ 10-12, visit www.therun.org For general information on Naturopathic medicine, visit <https://aanm-c.org/what-is-a-naturopathic-doctor/>

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