The Intersection of Public Health and Policy

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Overview

- Background on my project
- How I researched the issues
- Final results of the bills
- Thoughts about the importance of policy in public health
SB 314 Health Occupations- State Board of Physicians- Naturopathic Doctors

- Created board of naturopathic physicians
- Defined NDs scope of practice
  - Minor office procedures
  - Prescription powers
  - Other scope of practice
HB 883- Study of Safe and Healthy School Hours for Maryland Public Schools

• Growing question about school start time

• Required a study be conducted by Public Health Services
Research methods

- Grey literature
- Scientific databases
- News sources
- Other states’ legislative and health department sites
Outcome SB 314

• Naturopathic Doctors have strengths
  • Give people a choice in healthcare
  • Collaborate with MDs and DOs

• Naturopathic physicians will be licensed through the Board of Physicians
Outcome HB 883

• The research is not totally clear

• Public Health Services will conduct a study in conjunction with other departments in the state
Final thoughts

• The political process is complicated - compromise is important

• Public health needs strong advocates
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