

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

HB 3301 seems to be an attempt by naturopaths to further force insurers to recognize them as primary care physicians. This is good for naturopaths, but not good for patients or public health. The fact is that naturopaths are completely unqualified to be primary care providers and really should not be licensed as medical providers at all. Their education is woefully inadequate with all kinds of pseudo-science and they rarely have any residency after graduation. Some of their diagnoses and treatments are science-based and helpful, but much of what they do, like homeopathy, is complete nonsense that wastes patient's time and money and delays them from getting real treatment. Their widespread opposition to vaccinations is another indication that they're unfit to be medical professionals. I could go on, but you get the point. I'm not so concerned that naturopaths will have a large detrimental effect on patient health in Oregon because so few people use them and this is true even when they are mandated equal insurance coverage as MDs and DOs. However, it's never a good idea to lend legitimacy to pseudo-science through the law, especially when peoples' health is at stake.

Please waste as little time as possible on HB 3301 and let it die quietly. It does however bring up a topic that should be addressed in future legislation, and that is the removal of mandated coverage for, and even de-licensing of pseudo-medicine in Oregon, namely naturopathy, chiropractic and acupuncture.

Thank you,
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