



## Testimony in Support of SB 1535

Chair Roblan and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Laura Culberson Farr, Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians. On behalf of the OANP, we urge you to support passage of SB 1535.

Naturopathic Physicians are licensed in Oregon with a full primary care scope of practice. Before establishing a clinical practice, Naturopathic Physicians obtain a doctoral degree from a 4-6 year accredited medical school, can order all diagnostic labs and imaging, can write for all prescriptions needed in a primary care practice, and are credentialed by both Medicaid in Oregon and private insurers as primary care providers.

As our scope of practice and training have evolved, sometimes we find parts of Oregon statute that have become out of step or inconsistent with current standards and professional scopes of practice. The ability to sign off on "Return to Participation" forms evaluating concussions is one of those items.

SB 1535 is a simple correction to a bill passed last session that defined "healthcare professionals" eligible to authorize medical release after a concussion as only MDs, DOs, Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants. This is an outdated definition of "healthcare professional" that does not reflect current scope of practice.

To further highlight the incongruity specific to naturopathic physicians, I would point to SB 231 which was also passed and signed into law last year. SB 231 defined "primary care provider" as a "physician, naturopath, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other health professional licensed or certified in this state, whose clinical practice is in the area of primary care."

All other primary care providers are already enumerated in the laws to perform concussion evaluations and sign off on Return to Participation forms. It makes no sense that a naturopathic physician as a defined PCP, would not be able to perform these evaluations. We see these kinds of incongruent definitions across many statutes. They hinder timely patient care, and unfortunately require a legislative act to fix. SB 1535 simply makes this particular statute consistent with the current scope of practice of naturopathic physicians and chiropractors.

Thank you.