



February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Senate Health Care Committee

Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of Senate Bill 1547

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair DeBoer and members of the Committee:

Thank you for convening the Concussion Return to Play Workgroup, and for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 1547 on behalf of the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

Naturopathic physicians work in a variety of settings including PCPCHs as a primary care provider, academic institutions, and health systems. Naturopathic physicians are trained in evaluation and management of multiple conditions and must complete 50 hours of continuing education annually, including 10 hours of pharmacology. Most importantly, and just like any other family physician, internal medicine doctor, or Nurse Practitioner, we are trained to appreciate when we can assess something on our own, when we need to have additional training/certification, and when we need to refer to a specialist.

The bill before you today addresses youth safety after experiencing a concussion and outlines the appropriate health care providers who can become qualified to assess and provide a medical release to youth after a concussion.

I want to emphasize that this is NOT an expansion of our scope of practice as licensed Naturopathic physicians. We are already trained to evaluate patients for concussion (see attached letter dated October 17, 2107 from the National University of Natural Medicine), and to know when patients are at risk and when they need to be referred to a specialist for care. Again, our role, training and scope as primary care providers is no different than a family physician or Nurse Practitioner who are already permitted to conduct these evaluations. What SB 1547 *does* do is remove barriers to care for those patients who might see an ND as their primary care provider, or for the patients of NDs who specialize in rehab and sports medicine. It allows naturopathic physicians to be able to fully care for patients from

beginning to end, since disruption in care can have negative effect on the health and safety of the patient.

OANP supports the additional training requirements called for in SB 1547. This is an evolving field and all health care providers involved should remain knowledgeable of the latest science and practice.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify today on behalf of OANP. We urge you to support Senate Bill 1547. I am available for any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samuel G Oltman, ND