

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

March 18, 2020

Co-Chairs Roblan and Holvey and members of the committee:

First, I would like to thank this committee for convening on this important topic. As you are aware, COVID-19 is a global pandemic and Oregon has been affected in many ways, including public health, economic, and educational.

I am a small business owner and naturopathic physician who provides non-essential health care services. Many of my patients are immunocompromised, and out of an abundance of caution, our clinic has closed to in-person visits. Many of these patients can still be seen via telemedicine, however, even with the recent federal regulations being waived, there are many questions on how reimbursement will occur. And there are many limitations to telemedicine including how to provide some services that require an in-person evaluation and/or treatment.

Many of my colleagues are in the same position of deciding on keeping our doors open. Other non-essential providers are having the same discussions including dental professionals. We are all highly educated and skilled health care providers with active licensure through our respective boards. We would appreciate an opportunity to offer our services to the community and mitigate the current stress on the health care system.

My direct impacts from COVID-19 are two-fold. The current loss in revenue from shutting my doors and the inability to use my skills in another way to help the current front-line health care providers as they are becoming increasingly exhausted. I would also be remiss if I neglected to include the health care providers working with the most vulnerable populations: corrections, assisted living facilities, shelters, and others. These health care providers are hidden from the general population yet need the support and resources that are offered in the hospitals and other traditional care facilities.

Thank you again for your time and work on this important and timely subject.

Sincerely,

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