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Adjunct Professor
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Topic: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I have been a health care provider for almost 50 years, 18 years as an MD in family practice and then 12 years as an E.R. physician. In 1997 I received my ND degree from the National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), having been taught and trained by many dedicated and talented naturopathic physicians. From 1997 through 2015 I worked as an MD/ND general medicine provider in various NUNM clinics and was graciously accepted as a medical peer by other naturopathic physicians.

My experience working with naturopathic physicians during those years was very positive. I found those NDs to be well-educated, competent and professional physicians who provided excellent care for all types of patients! I respected them as medical peers, who were often times the superior members of the healthcare team. I was always respected and treated in a very collegial and professional manner.

The NDs with whom I worked readily referred patients who needed and/or requested further investigation and care by various medical specialists – those needing surgery, further testing and complex treatments. They displayed confidence, professionalism, and evidence of excellent education and training. As is expected from all generalists they knew both their areas of expertise as well as their limitations.


Working with various NDs exposed me to many tried and true alternative therapies for patients with challenging situations, as well as new, cutting edge treatments backed by new research. I learned ways to combine these old proven therapies and newer and innovative treatments with conventional treatments and medications for chronic conditions not responding to conventional treatments alone.

I was impressed over and over again about the value of medical care provided by my fellow naturopathic physicians and the importance of patients having the option of utilizing the exceptional mix of treatments available in a naturopathic clinic setting. Patients repeatedly expressed great fullness for the opportunity to choose naturopathic care, even though it often was covered only in part or not at all by their insurance.

In my view it is extremely important that the kind of medical care options offered by naturopathic physicians be readily available and affordable for patient wishing to choose such care! Limited insurance coverage offers a real challenge in many cases and often leads to the patient choosing care that is covered even though it may not be the type of care they prefer or that might be the most effective for her/his situation.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,


Dohn R. Kruschwitz, MD, ND