

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Deneen Tomayko and I am a Physician Assistant. I would like to share my experience working with NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

- I work with many NDs and they all have a wealth of knowledge both in traditional medicine and in naturopathic medicine.
- They all display a high level of education, competence and professionalism in caring for patients.
- NDs are respected and equal members at the healthcare table
- NDs are seen as peers and partners in healthcare delivery
- A big benefit of working with NDs is that they have ideas outside of traditional medicine for treating or helping patients
- More and more patients are choosing to see NDs rather than traditional providers!

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

Sincerely,

Deneen Tomayko, MS, PA-C

Physician Assistant

505-352-4422 (m)

503-608-3094 (o)

Name: Joseph Wills PA-C

Date: 2-4-2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

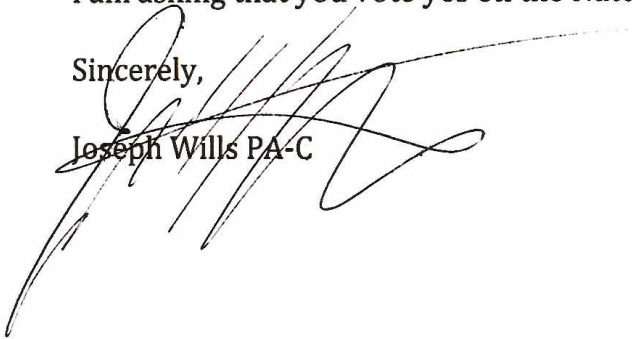
My name is Joseph Wills and I am Physician Assistant. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

- I've had the pleasure of working with numerous ND's in Urgent Care and Primary Care roles, and have found that their training, professionalism, and level of care provided is exceptional.
- Patients love that they provide a unique blend of evidence-based traditional western medicine, and can offer sound advice on holistic adjuncts to therapy at the same time.
- They provide value, safe and effective care, and another level of training to the interdisciplinary medical team.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph Wills PA-C

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Wills', is written over the typed name 'Joseph Wills PA-C'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gretchen R. Newmark, MA, RD
February 5, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Gretchen Newmark and I am a licensed dietitian. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

- My ND, Dr. Edie Vickers, saw me through 7 years of breast cancer treatment. She provided care that vastly reduced the side effects of the chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, and hormone suppressing drugs. Because of her I do not suffer from neuropathy (nerve numbness and pain) which would have been a permanent complication. She provided pain management that didn't require my taking opioids. Since my diagnosis, she has provided preventive care so that my chances of the cancer recurring are likely reduced.
- My husband was a professor at our local school, National University of Natural Medicine. Because of this, I know that the education they receive is on par with that of an MD or DO. I know from the care I receive from my ND that her competence and professionalism in caring for patients is as good or better than any I receive from my MD and DO providers.
- NDs are generally respected and should be equal members of healthcare providers.
- My surgeon and oncologist worked with my ND to coordinate my care and see her as a peers and partner in healthcare delivery.
- I would feel uneasy about my continued health were I not able to see my ND. Yet I have to pay out of pocket because Medicare will not reimburse for her services, and I know that she is receiving less than half of what my internist, oncologist, and dermatologist receive for similar services. It is unfair and short sighted.
- I strongly believe that patients should have a choice of licensed care providers who have completed an accredited curriculum.
- If I did not have disposable income, I would not be able to see my doctor. I expect there are many people in our state who are excluded from this vital care because of this lack of parity.

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

Sincerely,

Gretchen Newmark, MA, RD
Registered, Licensed Dietitian
www.gretchennewmark.com

Gretchen Newmark, MA RD
g6newmark@gmail.com

Kelly Thompson

2/13/19

Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Thompson and I am a physician assistant and I would like to share my experience working alongside Naturopathic Physicians in Oregon. NPs deliver quality healthcare to patients, but there are barriers they are facing in trying to do so.

I worked alongside NPs in an urgent care setting providing the same medical care to our patients, but was paid a higher salary to do an equal job description. Naturopathic Physicians are my peers and should be paid as such. Insurance companies need to recognize their roles in the medical setting and reimburse them properly.

Patients need choices in their medical care. While some patient choose to have an MD or DO as their provider, many opt for Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Naturopathic Physicians. By limiting pay and reimbursement of NDs you are limiting a patient's choice.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Thompson PA-C

Linda M. Glassey, MAc.

February 8, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Linda Glassey and I am a licensed Acupuncturist in the state of Oregon. I would like to share my experiences working with NDs to show their importance in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

Clients that I work with prefer and see NDs over regular MD's for their healthcare. They choose NDs over MDs due to:

- Having a healthcare professional that takes the time to listen to their client, is trustworthy and competent.
- Having a healthcare professional that has a holistic approach to finding the cause of the disease they are experiencing. Finding and correcting the source of their medical issue provides sustained relief of those symptoms without the standard medication bandaids that are currently used often by MDs, I am told.
- Having a healthcare professional that has the confidence and education to advise clients on nutrition and lifestyle changes that can help them meet their health needs and goals.
- Helping clients realize the role they play in their sustained health and healing.
- Having a healthcare professional that isn't afraid to ask the tough questions. (If test results are off..... why are they off, what's causing it?)

In my professional experiences, I have always seen NDs as equal and respected members of healthcare professionals and am excited to have them 'on my team'. Often there is a synergistic effect for the client's expedited healing.

In my mind, they are equal members at the healthcare table, always have been. They have comparable education and training. I was shocked to hear that they were not already considered equals by insurance and MDs.

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

Sincerely,

Linda M. Glassey, MAc.
Licensed Acupuncturist

Name: Nicholle Hassell PA-C

Date: 12/14/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nicholle Hassell and I am Physician Assistant. I would like to share some of my experiences working with NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

I have been working alongside NDs in a primary care/urgent care setting for the last two years. I have seen countless patients for follow up after they were initially cared for by NDs. I have not only agreed with these providers plans of care, but have also been impressed with their knowledge, skills, and competence in caring for these patients.

I have also consulted with NDs multiple times regarding complex patients. My patients have benefited numerous times from their input and knowledge. NDs should be respected as equal members at the healthcare table.

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

Sincerely,

Nicholle Hassell PA-C

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Sincerely,

Nicholle Hassell PA-C

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tamara Lee, I am a nurse practitioner practicing psychiatry in Roseburg, Oregon. I would like to share my experience working the naturopathic doctors in my community to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

Overall my experience working with ND's has been positive. They are skilled clinicians who provide good care for their patients and show professionalism at all times. I see the ND's in our community as peers and partners in healthcare delivery and trust them to provide competent care to patients I refer to them. I have referred patients to them in the past and intend to do so again in the future. They are particularly knowledgeable in natural medicine as treatment for chronic conditions which I feel is a valuable service in our medical community.

For these reasons, I believe they serve a vital role in our health care system and am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Tamara Lee, PMHNP

Tamara Lee PMHNP
2/12/19

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