



# family tree medicine

*Helping families, naturally.*

Name: Amanda Roe

Date: January 25, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amanda Roe, and I am a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care.

Oregonians pride themselves on independence and the freedom of choice. A choice that has the potential to maximize quality of life is a person's ability to choose a healthcare provider that they trust.

Naturopathic doctors provide top-level care, taking time to understand the complexities of a person's health, and explaining different treatment options, based on physiology and an in-depth understanding of everything from physical medicine to pharmacology to herbs and nutrients. Naturopathic doctors build trust with their patients over time, understanding the nuances of their bodies so that the patient is more empowered and can participate in their healthcare.

I love spending time with my patients, but I find myself, after 12 years in practice, still trying to manage a tricky balance of overhead versus income. I have not been able to make a significant dent in my student loans because of the low reimbursement rates we as ND's receive. Time after time, patients come in, frustrated that they get so little time with other specialists, but end up with massive bills in comparison to what they pay toward their deductible here.

Billing the same codes and providing the same or in many cases, I suspect, more thorough care for complex conditions needs to be reimbursed equitably across the board. We as a profession, are seen as being "the cheaper option" to many consumers, which in turn diminishes the perceived value of what we have to offer.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Amanda Roe".

Dr. Amanda Roe