

2/13/2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Christina Kithil and I am a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with 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.

I have been working in Portland as a Primary Care Provider since 2013. I work in an integrative primary care clinic with a group of Family Nurse Practitioners and Naturopaths. Personally, I provide primary care to a panel of over 500 patients of which the payer mix includes Oregon Health Plan and private insurance companies. I work as medical team with my Family Nurse Practitioner colleagues to maintain our status as a Patient Centered Primary Care Home as recognized by the Oregon Health Authority.

Due to reimbursement inequities from insurance companies, my participation on the care team puts the overall business at risk, and me in a position to work harder and get paid less than my colleagues. I am reimbursed lower rates for the same care. I love my job as a primary care provider and have been serving primarily Medicaid patients since the start of my practice in 2013. Due to high student loan repayment costs, expenses and liability of carrying a professional medical license, and the pressure to increase productivity on a day to day basis, I fear that I may not be able to sustain my role as a Primary Care Provider without employing pay parity for Naturopaths.

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

Sincerely,

Christina Kithil, ND