

February 13, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jennifer Lamar and I am one of your Oregonian constituents. I am also a licensed naturopathic physician in the state of Oregon practicing at ZOOM+ clinics in the Portland area. I am writing to encourage you to support the Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill, a pioneering legislative measure that would put to end discrimination against naturopathic physicians, provide fair pay and increased access to high-quality primary medical care for Oregonians statewide.

The Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill is an exceptionally important piece of legislation and this is why: it ends the fundamentally flawed and damaging practice of insurance companies rejecting the qualifications of a naturopathic physician to provide quality primary medical care.

The viewpoint that naturopathic medical training is limited and needs restrictions prior to credentialing with insurers as primary care physicians is egregiously inaccurate. A Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine is a 4-year degree program requiring a total of 4457 combined basic science, pathology, pharmacology and clinical credit hours. I became a naturopathic physician precisely BECAUSE it allowed me to broaden the scope of my medical abilities; at the same time staying dedicated to the fundamental aspects of medicine as an evidence-based science.

Under the current medical insurance standards, I struggled to find lucrative employment and a way to practice high-caliber primary care medicine that could reach a broader scope of community. Then I became employed at ZOOM+Care and was recognized comprehensively as a primary care provider. Finally, I was able to impress quality medical care and positive change on a remarkable number of patients. It is this reason I went to school for 10+ years. It is because of this recognition that I have saved lives, cared for and inspired a great number of patients within a short period of time.

By supporting the Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill, you will be supporting the education, development and employment of primary care physicians in the state of Oregon, an area of medicine that has sadly been declining in rapid numbers over the last decade. You will also be providing increased accessibility to quality primary medical care for your constituents across the state.

Naturopathic physicians are highly trained and skilled providers with the ability to offer exceptional primary healthcare on equal footing with NPs, PAs, DOs and MDs.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and highly encourage you to support the Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill. The health and wellness of your Oregonian constituents depends on you.

I am happy to answer any questions or concerns your colleagues may have and have enclosed my phone number below.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Lamar, ND
360.449.2668