

February 2, 2019

Barbara Wilson  
98330 Thomas Lane  
Brookings, OR 97415

Dear Members of the Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am writing to encourage you to endorse the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill. It is a cause that my husband and I feel strongly about.

Our son has been very ill since the fall of 2005. We have taken him to see numerous MD's over the years, including a department head at OHSU, with no substantial improvements in his condition. In an effort to help him, I have read books and articles, and done research online. These efforts, while helpful, made only minimal improvements in his condition.

Last year, based on a recommendation from a friend, I accompanied my son to see Dr. Margaret Philhower, ND. Having always seen MD's, we didn't know what to expect. Since we wanted to try lowering his dependence on prescription medication, she suggested certain supplements, along with changes to his diet and exercise routine. Surprisingly, we started to see improvements in his memory and outlook on life. After several months we noticed positive improvements. Today, he is on about half the prescription medication he was on 2 years ago and we now have hope for a better tomorrow.

Currently my son is in need of the services of a physical therapist. He received a referral from Dr. Philhower, but medicare will not pay unless the referral comes from an MD. Thus services have been delayed until we can see his primary care physician. This is an extra appointment that he wouldn't need if a referral from a N.D. was acceptable. Eliminating that extra appointment, along with the unnecessary medication, saves the state money. As my son starts to feel better, we are hoping that his part-time job will become a full-time job and he will be able to get along without ANY state support. Healthy residents use less in state resources and pay more in income taxes.

We are not a family that rejects modern medicine. My husband's father, uncle, grandfather, and great grandfather were all MD's. We also have two RN's in the family. There are times however, when traditional medicine fails. It took us 13 years to find a path towards healing for our son. Don't make others suffer unnecessarily due to prejudice and misinformation. Naturopathic medicine is not incense and chants, it's real and the only thing thus far that has helped our son.

I can be contacted at (541) 469-9013 if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wilson

