

Name: Ellen Richter
Date: 2/13/19
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Ellen Richter and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My Naturopath listens to me. She gives me a full half hour of her time at every visit, listens to my concerns, and explains any treatment that is not clear to me. I have never experienced that level of care with a physician practicing western medicine.

My Naturopath considers the uniqueness of my body and looks for alternatives when conventional medications or treatments won't work.

The value of this care is life or death to me. If I was forced to use western medicine, I would not be getting well as I am now with a Naturopath, and I would probably be told that "it's all in my head" which I heard before from a western medicine physician. (It wasn't. A different doctor was able to diagnose my condition.)

I believe that one of my inalienable rights is the right to choose the healthcare provider from whom I receive treatment. This choice is made difficult because insurance companies do not cover Naturopathic care to the extent that they cover western medicine. Many Naturopathic treatments are not covered at all, and compounded medications required when conventional won't work are also excluded from insurance.

Why are Naturopathic Physicians paid so little compared to other providers?

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

Sincerely,
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