

Name: Jordan Henderson

Date: 02/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jordan and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician whom I greatly enjoy working with and who has provided me with excellent, personalized, focused and preventative health care. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Each time I see my Naturopathic Physician, there are a few things I know I can expect from the medical office visit, that we will go through my most recent health complaints, check in on medications, supplements, allergies and the other medical items but that I will also have anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes to actually get to speak with my medical provider. I cannot even express to you the difference that this amount of time has had in regards to helping me experience better health outcomes.

Compared to other medical providers I have seen, this time spent getting not only to know me and the symptoms which brought me into their office, but also learning how to work with me and not just tell me what to do, has given me the best health of my life. This is where I find that naturopathic medicine has an immense impact to positively change the health climate we currently have in not only the United States as a whole but especially in our corner of the world in Oregon.

I absolutely treasure the Naturopathic Physician I work with and I find it wholly unfair and unjust that despite them having the same ability to be distinguished as a primary care physician they are continually paid far less (and even less than those who do not have the same legal rights to practice medicine). I also find it difficult that not only are they not paid fairly, but that despite me being told I "have the choice" to see the provider of my choice, that it actually is not and that many Naturopathic Physicians are restricted from being covered by certain insurances or that they are far under reimbursed over other types of providers.

I see a Naturopathic Physician because they actually get to the root of the problem instead of just throwing a prescription at my symptoms or giving me generic advice. The Naturopathic Physician whom I trust deeply with my health care, actually takes the time to make an individualized and personalized treatment plan that aims to cure me, not just 'cure' my symptoms. Ultimately, I would love to know why are Naturopathic Physicians paid so little compared to other types of medical providers? Because if we are going on performance and resolution of medical issues, then I feel Naturopathic Physicians should be paid more, if not at least the same as these other medical providers.

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

Sincerely,

Jordan Henderson