

Name: Kayla Petersen

Date: 2/11/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kayla Petersen 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.

I would be lost without the care of my ND. Before seeing an ND I dreaded going to the doctors office, my blood pressure would always be high at appointments because I was made anxious by the impersonal, clinical, and uncomfortable environment. In addition, my MD would always recommend prescription medication first, rather than try to get to the root of the problem, she just wanted to treat symptoms.

My first time seeing a naturopath was such a breath of fresh air. She got to know me as a person, asked so many more questions than any MD had ever asked, really got to know me as a person so that her care for me could be tailored to my needs. I continue to see a naturopath, have birth under the supervision of one, and have my kids seen by one, because the quality of care is so exceptional. I trust that my naturopathic physician advises based on what is best for me/my children specifically rather than based on a one size fits all approach.

I have had to pay significant out of pocket costs because insurance coverage for naturopathic care is so poor. It pains me that these practitioners are paid less than conventional medicine practitioners when, in my experience, their level of care is far superior. I would love for everyone to have the opportunity to be treated by a naturopathic physician and for his or her compensation to be increased.

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

Sincerely,

Kayla Petersen