

Name: Kelsey Barnett

Date: 2/9/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelsey Barnett 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 feel SO thankful that I am able to see a naturopathic doctor as my primary care physician on Care Oregon plan. Being able to sit with my doctor for 60 minutes, have all my questions answered, learn more about my health, receive feedback about how my health is changing, and also give deeper insight about my health with my ND has been so transformative. I finally understand how my daily choices accumulate into my overall health (or lack thereof, depending on the choice).

I feel that I am heard, valued, honored, and that I am getting the care that truly everyone deserves. I feel empowered and that I can make wise decisions about what I do with my body, what I put in my body, and how I care for my body. Even more, I feel that my naturopathic doctor really wants me to be healthy, too, and that is a new experience. She values my health and wants to see my health improve for the long run. She is equipping me with tools that I can keep building on for the rest of my life, and eventually teach my children and grandchildren about in the future.

I choose to see a ND for my primary care because there are so many modalities, she can recommend that meet my needs, are effective for transforming my health, and are within my budget for health care. I can go see her to have my IUD taken out, and in the same visit receive pelvic floor therapy for my mild incontinence. I can come in seeking treatment for acne and receive a dietary plan that will also help with my digestion issues as well as the acne. There is so much cross over and comprehensive care that I am receiving that I have never had access to on Medicaid in California ever before. My life and health have changed dramatically for the better

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? This makes no sense. I receive better care from my naturopath than any other nurse practitioner or MD in my entire 28 years of life. My ND deserves to be reimbursed at the same rate (if not more) to any other provider out there.

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

Sincerely,

Kelsey Barnett