

February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Lou Ogden and I am a health care patient, a former local elected official, and for more than 30 years, a health insurance broker in Oregon. First, as a former elected official I thank you for your work, and realize you have many different interests to balance. I do want to impress upon you a couple key points relative to Naturopathic Doctors and insurance reimbursements. But first, I want to say that I have been receiving care from both ND's and MD's over the years as needed. Both serve an important service, and both should be paid equally for rendering the same services. When their scopes of practice allow them to both provide the same services, why would they be paid differently?

That leads to my second point, which may be beyond the scope of your legislation, but that is in regard to the lack of coverage for ND's that most insurance companies restrict. I have countless clients who bemoan the fact that their insurance doesn't cover their ND or it pays so little. The patient ends up footing the bill. ND's should not be discriminated against.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LOU OGDEN', written in a cursive style.

Lou Ogden  
Tualatin, OR