

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

My name is Sr. Margaret Bischoff, SP, and I have been a patient of Naturopathic Physicians for several years. I want you to know how I have valued their care, and have come to trust it. I want to tell you that this kind of care is very important to my health, and that of other Oregonians.

To begin with I searched out at Naturopath for my Sister who was struggling with dementia, but when I saw the excellent care she was receiving, I signed up for myself. My initial interview almost shocked me, it was so helpful. For one thing, the doctor spent more than an hour, mostly listening to me. She asked me what MY major health concerns were! She helped me then, as does my present Naturopath, learn how, and take responsibility for, caring for my health. And the breadth of their knowledge of many different conditions was amazing. I felt that I had found a real doctor, not just a "pill pusher". My ND has helped me network with other excellent providers of all kinds.

In addition, I really appreciate their recommendations for natural products, that really work, with few or no side effects. I feel safer in their hands, since I've developed a real fear of the drugs too quickly resorted to, by other doctors.

Really, I think anything we can do to make Naturopaths more available to more people, should be done. My health has really improved with their professional care. It really doesn't seem fair that they get paid so much less than other physicians. I'm especially concerned that they aren't eligible for Medicare and other insurance payments.

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

Sincerely,
Sr. Margaret Bischoff, SP