

Senate Hearing
Hearing Room A
February 20, 2019

Testimony in favor of SB 734

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My name is Merry Bayly. I am here to provide testimony in support of SB 734.

A little background about me. I have been retired from state service for about a year and a half. I am currently a cattle rancher, along with my husband, in Oakland Oregon. In my previous life as a public servant I worked 23 years in Child Support Enforcement, with several of those years with the Friend of the Court's office in Michigan, and the following 15 years with the Oregon Department of Justice. My final 13 years with the State of Oregon were spent managing the Aging and People with Disabilities' programs within the Department of Human Services in Douglas County. I was also a single parent of two children, with virtually no financial support, for 23 years.

I have personal examples to share with this committee, which are not intended to disparage the conventional medical model of treatment because, in fact in these examples, conventional medical treatment was first accessed, or used in conjunction with naturopathic treatments.

As a teenager, my daughter got poison oak on her legs. The blistering was very extreme and continued to spread. She was prescribed steroids and various creams through the family MD. After much effort, I turned to naturopathic solutions. The results were immediate.

She also later developed scarring acne. After many attempts working with the conventional medical community with no results, I again turned to naturopathic medicine, in hopes of preventing my daughter from spending the rest of her life with severe scarring on her face. The approach was to address the body as a whole system, and determine the actual cause. Again, we were able to achieve success.

As I'm sure you are all aware, public service can come with a degree of stress. I developed chronic IBS. IBS is a painful and debilitating reaction to stress. Through a simple naturopathic treatment, it was stopped and did not reoccur.

As a single parent, with no financial support, I was forced to incur hundreds of dollars in bills to exercise my choice in approach to medical treatments. Although it was not easy, I was fortunately able to handle the bills. I am sure there are many people who are not financially able to seek the medical treatments of their choice, utilizing naturopathic physicians. The inequity in coverage and reimbursements between conventional medicine practitioners and naturopathic doctors has existed for many years. These inequities continue to get in the way of people in Oregon seeking to exercise choice in medical treatments. Especially those of lower economic status.

It is for this reason that I support SB 734, and ask this committee to vote yes on this bill.

Thank you for your time.