

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Johanna Spalding 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 suffer from Chronic Pain and Fibromyalgia. I have had difficulties finding the right provider until I started seeing my ND.

Since I began seeing my ND at Natural Family Health Clinic, my pain levels have started decreasing. I have been able to return to full-time employment too. This is something I would not have dreamed possible prior to starting care at my ND. I appreciate working with an ND on my health because my ND treats me as a whole person rather than just a combination of symptoms.

General barriers to care that I see are when my choices are limited due to NDs not being able to bill my insurance plan. They don't bill, because they will not be paid a sustainable wage from some insurance companies. Another barrier that NDs have is the stereotypes that they are somehow "less than" other providers I have been treated by. Value of naturopathic care is drastically underrated in this country.

Patient choice in care is very important to me. I want to be able to choose who I see for my primary care and not be told who I have to see. I am glad that I am able to choose to see my ND for my care. I think it is one of the best decisions I have ever made.

From the first moment I stepped into my ND's clinic I was treated as a person. My ND listened to me, and actually heard what I was saying. My ND includes me in deciding my care, rather than telling me what to do as has been my experience in other provider's offices. My ND treats me as a person. My ND makes me feel hope about the future with my care. This is why I see an ND specifically.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? My ND has more training and experience than my previous MD. My ND deserves equal pay for equal work! NDs are paid a fraction of what my MD is paid. That is blatant discrimination.

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

Sincerely,

Johanna Spalding

Name: Ajit Nayak

Date: 02.05.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Ajit R. Nayak and I am a patient of Naturopathic Physician Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj in Portland, Oregon. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

- Dr Daivati Bharadvaj is a top-notch naturopathic physician who takes a very holistic and caring approach to healing patients from my firsthand experience.
- Naturopathic care what I appreciate the most, is non-invasive, has fewer side effects, is lasting and truly healing from the inside out. It is a mind-body-spirit approach to healing that really works in many cases better than care provided by MDs.
- The biggest and only barrier to Naturopathic care is the cost. Insurance carriers do not provide the same insurance coverage and most of the Naturopathic care has to be paid for out of pocket with no aid from health insurance companies.
- As a testimonial I can tell you my firsthand experience. Before seeing Dr Daivati Bharadvaj I went to several MDs for various ailments (general health and well-being) and they prescribed various medications without taking a holistic approach to my health which resulted in various other side effects. After many futile doctor visits and medications, I decided to try Naturopathic care under Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj and the first thing I noticed was how she took genuine interest in understanding and getting to the root of the problems and then taking a holistic approach to finding the solutions. Under her care I was able to start feeling healthy very quickly both mind and body and saw positive results in leaps and bounds. This positive experience has reaffirmed my belief in the value of holistic Naturopathic care and I believe it should be available to everyone in Oregon and be more affordable through health insurance coverage!

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

Sincerely,

Ajit R. Nayak

02.05.2019

Name: Alexandra Bougerie

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Alexandra Bougerie 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Bougerie

Name: Alexandra Volarich

Date: 2/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Alexandra Volarich 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.

Ever since my first gynecological exam, the annual trip to the doctor for a pap became a significantly dreaded and intense anxiety-provoking trepidation. The contact with the doctor was minimal, there was little to no conversation regarding the procedures, and my comfort level was something that was never addressed. I came to think of this as normal until I entered naturopathic medical school in Portland, OR. As I dove deeper into this medicine in a new state, two years passed until I realized I needed my well-women's visit. It was at this moment I realized I could find a naturopathic physician in this new state who specializes in woman's health and would better serve my needs.

My first visit with my new doctor was night and day compared to my past well-women's visits. The doctor moved slowly, methodically, and steadily throughout the entire exam. She explained not only what she was doing, but exactly what she was assessing. This was thrilling, as we had just completed our reproductive anatomy course, and everything was falling perfectly into place during her exam.

Additionally, she offered to let me see my cervix with a mirror once the speculum was in place! No one had ever offered this to me before, and I thought it was absolutely fantastic to see. This made me feel so empowered and grateful for my anatomy. It was such a beautiful experience. Further, I experienced the first TRUE clinical breast exam of my life. This is a vital examination tool that is dying from conventional women's healthcare.

My previous breast exams had lasted about 15 total seconds with only one level of light palpation. My naturopathic doctor explained to me the importance of using three different pressures and spanning the entire length of the breast to axilla. After this visit, I had a new admiration and appreciation for all that a doctor could do to make their patient feel at ease.

Further, this sublime visit with my naturopath sparked a huge interest to pursue women's health in my education. If this doctor made such a difference for me, I certainly can do the same thing for other women in the future. As a future naturopathic physician and a patient whose life was changed by one, it is of the utmost importance that this issue of fair pay to the utmost deserving of

professionals be addressed.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Ruth Volarich

Name: Amber Harper

Date: 01/28/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amber Harper 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. As a mother and a native Oregonian I value having options for my medical care in my state. I choose to raise my family with a holistic approach and have chosen to stay in our beautiful state of Oregon because of the reception I receive from other families I meet here with the same values.

I have tried taking my family to traditional MD's, but because of my medical choices, I have not felt supported by the doctors I have met. I do not take my role as the family decision maker on our health lightly. When our family visits our ND we are always made to feel at home. This is our right as paying clients to choose who our money goes to for medical care. We receive better care with our ND than any MD we have ever seen. Not only does our ND offer holistic care that can be in our best interest she also explains when an alternative route is not the best approach.

The pay should be equal across the board for any medical professional and it should be a family's choice to decide whom they see.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Harper and family

Name: Amber Hensley

Date: 2/11/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amber 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 started seeing a naturopath when I found out I was pregnant almost 7 years ago. I wanted to do what was best for the baby and myself. The care I received from my naturopath exceeded every expectation I had. My daughter and I still see a naturopath for all our primary care.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Hensley

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amrita Vatsal 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've had a great experience working With my naturopathic physician on allergies and nasal congestion with a plan of care that did not involve steroids. I'm way better educated on food and allergens than before and it is making a difference to my health.
- I also appreciate as a pregnant woman being able to seek alternative medical interventions for issues that do not involve drugs that are not healthy for my baby.
- My naturopath can see me on short notice and generally spends a lot of time with me compared to traditional providers.
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Amrita Vastal

Name: Angela Gutierrez

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Angela Gutierrez 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Angela Gutierrez

Name: Aria Leighty

Date: 2/3/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Aria Leighty 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.

- My husband was treated for his high blood pressure. After six stays in the hospital, countless medications, and trying so many things...the naturopath found the perfect solution to save his life.
- I appreciate that my naturopath takes the time to listen to me and find a solution. I'm treated like a person not a number.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am confused why when they give the same amount of time, if not more to patients. I have had a better experience with my ND than any other medical professional I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Aria Leighty

Name: Arvina Mulia

Date: February 6, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Arvina Mulia 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.

In 2017, I was having problem with digestive issues; every time I ate, my stomach always got bloated. When I talked to my PCP, a general MD physician, I was only recommended to just eat low FOD MAP food, but I did not get any relief from my digestive issues. Only after seeing Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, a naturopathic physician, I found out that I have SIBO. After the some medication, supplement and diet recommended by Dr. Daivati, my digestive symptoms have totally been gone and my SIBO is now under control. I also appreciate the fact that Dr. Daivati is flexible, always takes into her consideration of my overall situation and lifestyle when recommending treatments.

I believe that working with a naturopathic physician, especially one that is genuinely caring and skillful like Dr. Daivati is a blessing. Dr D truly took her time to listen and analyze my health issues in a more holistic and caring way compared to general doctor that I have seen. Although the PCP that I had been seeing was also caring in her way, she did not analyze my health issue as comprehensive and holistically as Dr. Daivati and the amount of appointment time seemed at times made me feel rushed as if I was taking too much of the PCP time for her next appointment.

Dr Daivati also helped me to be able to do my yearly wellness check up, when my PCP is out of the country, as she is trained just like regular doctor and yet, when it comes to insurance co-pay, since year 2018 with Moda Health, I have to pay a co-pay of \$70, every time I see Dr. Daivati as she is categorized as a specialist, not a general practitioner.

This high co-pay fee for visiting a naturopathic physician can become a barrier to anyone, including myself, if I find myself in a tight financial situation. And yet, I will always want to visit a naturopath physician like Dr. Daivati because I trust her that she can give me a comprehensive and caring analysis of my health issues especially regarding my digestive issues, which I am prone to have.

I do not understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to general medical providers I have seen, especially since naturopath physician like Dr Daivati, has given me a more medical care service than any regular physician ever did for me. I would like to see that naturopathic physician to be compensated fairly as they offer the same kind and even more comprehensive medical care service than regular general practitioners do.

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

Sincerely,
(Arvina Mulia)

Name: Aubrie De Clerck

Date: February 3, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Aubrie De Clerck and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I believe that this profession is incredibly important to the residents of Oregon, and also to the health of our state.

The quality of healthcare I receive from my ND far exceeds any experience I have had with any other kind of physician. My ND is committed to and has the mindset and tools at her disposal to find the root cause underneath my symptoms in a way that works best with my body. This means longer term positive and lasting outcomes for me - less repeat visits and improved health overall. I also feel more educated and empowered in regards to my health.

Given my experience, it is puzzling to me why NDs are paid less than western doctors. While things are getting better in terms of insurance covering NDs and Oregon is on the leading edge of supporting all kinds of health care options that increase positive outcomes, the issue of parity makes it difficult for NDs to continue practicing and providing the type of care that is so life changing for many of us.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about my experiences.

Sincerely,

Aubrie De Clerck

Name: Audra Bates

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Audra Bates and my son is a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share our experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Our son has suffered from asthma since 13 months old & diagnosed “severe asthmatic” at 20 months. After 2 years of being unable to control attacks, the pediatrician recommended an allergist, so we made an appointment.

After the testing, the physician rushed through the results and advised we begin 5 daily medications immediately and regular allergy shots in the next few months. He used medical terminology and we had to repeatedly ask for a clear explanation. We voiced concern for a 4 year old on 5 medications AND allergy shots. He dismissed our concerns and left. We felt frustrated, unheard, and uncertain how to help our child.

We then scheduled an appointment with a Naturopath. The physician performed the exam, reviewed the results/suggestions from the allergist, and listened to us detail our sons health concerns. She determined he should be on 2 of the medications. In order to avoid the remaining 3 medications she suggested; environmental, diet, and household changes. We began the new protocol of 2 medications, along with the other changes and waited (while she monitored him)...

It’s been almost a year and we have been able to avoid 3 additional medications and allergy shots! We have seen improvement in his overall health and significantly minimized the frequency of his asthma attacks.

What our ND provided that we didn’t find anywhere else – thorough examinations, listened to our concerns, educated us, provided alternative to prescriptions (when possible), gained our trust, allowed us to work as a team in providing the best care for our son.

This is why we need NDs. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Audra Bates (and family)

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Brigitte Barkagan Eldin 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 have had more success with my health conditions by seeing a Naturopathic doctor than I have had with years of seeing a Medical Doctor. I am able to get to the root of my issues with my ND, instead of treating only the symptoms, which is a game changer when dealing with chronic pain.

I appreciate having the choice of which kind of doctor I am able to see. The guidance and care I've received from my ND is invaluable and I don't know where I'd be today without it. From what I have learned, ND's are paid significantly less than MD's and I don't see that as fair, seeing that an ND is able to prescribe me pharmaceutical medication and give me check-ups in the same manner as an MD can.

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

Sincerely,

Brigitte Barkagan Eldin

Name: Caitlin Miyashiro

Date: 2/13/19

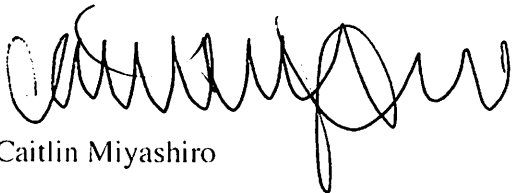
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Caitlin Miyashiro and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I use my Naturopathic Physician as my primary care provider and appreciate her ability to use conventional medical treatments along side naturopathic treatment plans.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitlin Miyashiro', with a stylized, cursive script.

Caitlin Miyashiro

Name: Cameron Montrose

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Cameron Montrose 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Cameron Montrose

Name: Celia Ferrer

Date: 2/9/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Celia Ferrer 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.

When I was unemployed, I received free care from a naturopathic doctor who acted as my family doctor, to manage what could have been a really serious medical condition.

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

Sincerely,

Celia Ferrer

Date: Feb 12, 2019

Subject: Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity SB 734

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Cheryl Dorman from Portland, and for several years I have received treatment from Naturopathic Physicians. My experiences have been extremely positive and I continue to receive very good care. I have also used Medical Doctors and continue to use them, also with good results. I recently discovered that ND's are paid by insurance companies only a fraction, half or less of what MD's are paid for the exact same kinds of visits. I was shocked and dismayed to learn that, and cannot understand why that is the case.

It is my understanding that Nurse Practitioners had similar inequities from insurance companies until the legislature passed a law requiring they be paid at market rates. It is time to do the same for Naturopathic Doctors.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Dorman

Name: Chris Boerste

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Chris Boerste 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Boerste

Name: Christen Prudence

Date: 1/29/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Christen Prudence 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 appreciate that I am seen as a whole person instead of a set of symptoms to treat by my ND.

This has been invaluable in my treatment of Adrenal Fatigue, Postpartum Depression/Anxiety, and autoimmune disease prevention. My time spent with my ND not only goes over my physical symptoms, but also emotional well-being, diet, sleep patterns, and exercise. It never feels rushed, and she answers any and all questions I have in a relatable manner. Human bodies are complex and I don't believe there is a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, it is important that we have a choice in who we partner with in regards to wellbeing.

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

Sincerely,

Christen Prudence

Name: Christy Carothers

Date: 2/9/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Christy Carothers 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.

My doctor spends more time with me than any other doctor ever has. She asks more questions and seems to really care about what I have to say. She counsels me thoroughly on treatment options and always seems to know exactly what little (or sometimes big) changes I can make to help me feel better. She even reminds me about my PAPs and mammograms!

It seems very odd to me that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Christy Carothers

Name: CJ Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is CJ Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

CJ Sanders

Name: Colleen Bolster

Date: 2/6/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Colleen Bolster 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.

My Naturopathic Doctor was able to help me in so many ways. I had been to so many different doctors, and none could help. So many specialists, so many years of suffering.

But after working with a Naturopathic Doctor, I was able to correct my chronic medical issues. I am no longer being shuttled around the conventional system, racking up medical costs with no improvement and no end in sight.

I am a happy patient of a Naturopathic Doctor, and I was so disheartened (enraged really) at learned about the disastrous pay disadvantage my Naturopathic Doctor has endured.

I am very fortunate to have healthcare insurance, and have been using that to see my Naturopathic Doctor.

Then when I learned that basically all those other providers, who never helped me, for years, were paid so much more than the one provider who actually did me any good... well... I just have no words.

Explain to me the rationale of this. I cannot find one. I am guessing you cannot also.

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

Colleen Bolster

Name: Courtney Crane

Date: 1/26/18

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Courtney Crane 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 chose to work with a Naturopathic Physician because, in my experience, Naturopathic Physicians are far more likely to honor my personal, social and cultural views and practices of health while maintaining the high quality standard of care expected of all Oregon Primary Care physicians.

I have birthed two children in Oregon, my first to an allopathically trained obstetrical practitioner and my second to a Naturopathic Physician. In my second pregnancy I was more thoroughly screened and assessed at every appointment and for postpartum depression. It also became clear from such high level of care during with my second child that I likely had significant postpartum depression that was never caught or addressed for my first pregnancy by my allopathic provider. I also received more treatment including the standard treatment of care and more referrals to specialists for concerning issues with my ND Physician than I did with my previous pregnancy.

Given that ND Physicians provide better and more thorough basic primary care as well as offer additional referrals and herbal or vitamin supports such as I have experienced, it seems quite silly to pay them less than other primary care providers. I hope that this is corrected because NDs are an asset to healthcare in Oregon and ask that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Courtney Crane
Hillsboro, Oregon

--

"I know there is strength in the differences between us.
I know there is comfort where we overlap."

~Ani DiFranco

Name: COURTNEY DAYAO

Date: 2.12.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Courtney Dayao 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.

Before I started seeing a naturopath, I felt that conventional doctors were ignoring my health issues and simply offering me a pill to cure me rather than addressing root causes. My final straw was when a doctor in Oregon wanted to prescribe me anti depressants when I told her I felt tired all the time. She never took my blood test and did not ask any other questions but jumped at the idea of an anti depressant. This not only worried me but made me incredibly frustrated and I did not pick up the prescription. I decided then that I wanted the option to see a naturopath and over the last year, my health and well being has changed for the better. I learned about natural supplements, took the advice to work on my sleep habits, exercise more, and even learned about better food choices to get enough nutrition since I am vegetarian. I am healthier and more energetic than I have ever been and my mental health is much better all due to my seeing a naturopath. I have had too many negative experiences with conventional doctors and find great value in naturopathic care. My naturopath, Dr. Daivati, has been so warm and caring in all of our interactions and I never once experienced that with any conventional doctor. I have become very passionate about naturopathic care and strongly believe that we should all have a choice when it comes to our health care options.

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

Sincerely,

Courtney Dayao

Name: Daman Oberoi

Date: February 9, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Daman Oberoi, 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.

For years I dealt with issues related to an irritable bowel, and my MD's response was to take a prescription pill every day for the rest of my life. I was only 25 years old when the MD gave me that solution. I didn't like the idea of taking a pill for the next 50+ years to deal with this issue. As soon as I started seeing an ND, she took the time to evaluate my whole health and run tests to identify the specific source of the problem. I didn't take any prescriptions to address the issue. Instead, we were able to address the problem with supplements and diet. That experience with an ND changed my life and forever linked me to an ND's care.

I can list several other instances where an ND's care has been much better for my health, but I'll mention just one more specifically. Over the last several years, my blood pressure has been on the high side. An MD's response would be to take a pill to control it. My ND worked with me to not only lower my blood pressure, but also improve countless other indicators, such as Vitamin D levels, cholesterol, triglycerides, and more. I'm now 37 years old and healthier than I have ever been, in huge part due to my ND.

Naturopaths make a huge difference in people's lives. In the long run, they will reduce health care costs because they address root causes, rather than prescribing pills to band-aid everything. They attend medical school for four years, and many complete intensive residencies. For all these reasons, they deserve parity in pay.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daman Oberoi
503-358-2750

Name: Dan Pettingill

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dan Pettingill 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Dan Pettingill

Name: Daniel Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Daniel Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Keliheleua

Name: Danielle Trapp

Date: 2/12/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Danielle Trapp and I have been a patient of a few Naturopathic Physicians through the years. I would like to share my experience working with ND's to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

There are many conditions and ailments being 'treated' in the medical community solely on symptoms alone. Those symptoms are masked while underlying issues still remain present. These long term medications often come at other risks and side effects in addition to not always fully treating the problem.

Naturopathic Physicians often can diagnose and treat the patient not the condition; thus meaning you are looked at as a person rather than a series of bullet points. This leads to fewer visits overall, fewer long term prescriptions, and less trial and error. All this is less money insurance has to pay as well as patient out of pockets.

I see an ND for my gut health. I use the term gut health as an all encompassing phrase because many, many issues can be attributed to it and it's not once been something discussed with me by an MD outside of a gastroenterologist (who, by the way, still doesn't treat the gut health as an issue). Locating the root of problems, in my case chronic inflammation in my body, I, like many out there can achieve some more realistic and feasible results as a whole.

Naturopathic Physicians are far too underpaid for their knowledge of the body and the compassion they bring. They are not motivated by drug reps or outside influences. They recommend and prescribe because they feel strongly not because of extra perks to benefit them. Because many were in practice well before complimentary medicine was even an option for insurance companies, they sure as heck didn't get into the field for the income; they did it to truly help people and make a difference.

They 100% deserve to be paid the same as someone who can claim to heal and not always come through. They live the Hippocratic Oath every day and then some. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Danielle Trapp

Name: Dave Ehrlichman, Dhyana Ehrlichman and Tara Ehrlichman (Family)

Date: 02/01/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dave Ehrlichman 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 have had exceptionally positive experiences working with naturopathic physicians and really value their Holistic and Integrated approach to health care on a level far exceeding any allopathic care I've ever had.
- Due to my overall confidence and satisfaction with Naturopathic care for my entire family, we have enlisted Naturopathic physicians as our primary care providers and rely on them 100%.
- The immense value of naturopathic care lies in its holistic and integrated approach to the whole person. Having substantial training in allopathic and natural medicine approaches including Traditional Chinese Medicine and other natural healing arts, I feel the value of Naturopathic care is an invaluable aspect of wellness and can bring tremendous value to our overall, national healthcare system.
- Patient choice is of course a huge value in a democratic healthcare system, especially since many no longer trust the Big Pharma model of for profit disease palliation and the over sized lobby influence of our political process, insurance coverage's and cost of healthcare.
- General barriers to care include lack of equal Insurance coverage for most insurance plans, which is not helpful to a robust healthcare system.
- I see an ND specifically for their vastly superior care and broader holistic perspective in which they take the body, mind and spirit as a whole person, instead of just the sum of parts.
- Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I feel this is due to systemic establishment bias and is fundamentally unfair to both these tremendously qualified health care providers and to the patients who rely on them.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Lets get some fairness and common sense into our healthcare and Insurance systems so we can bring holistic, Integrative healthcare to all who choose it.

Sincerely,

Dave, Dhyana and Tara Ehrlichman
Also on behalf of my parents Bruce and Inez Canvasser

Name: David Rodrigues

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is David Rodrigues 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

David Rodrigues

Name: Deborah McKinley

Date:2.5.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Deborah McKinley 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.

- Positive experiences working with my naturopathic physician---she is someone who takes the time to listen to what my problems are and instead of just treating the symptoms, she works hard to get to the root of the problem and really figure out what isn't working.
- I value the benefits I have in choosing my healthcare; knowing that my insurance covers what my Naturopath helps me with as well as what my other MD's help me with.
- I truly believe that my OPTIMAL health is a combination of western medicine my MD provides in combination with my naturopathic care
- Although I have a trusted group of MD's that I work with, I specifically see my ND who has greatly helped me with my seasonal allergies and inability to sleep through the night. Priceless!
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Deborah McKinley

Name: Donald G. Nutting

Date: February 11.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Donald G. Nutting 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.

My experience with my ND has been extremely helpful with my overall health and well-being.

Working with an ND is very rewarding in regard to my physical issues in life and the way that they are approached.

My personal health issues have been looked at by multiple MD's for years and 10's of thousands of dollars while my ND was able to get my health back to a normal physical scenario in a year.

With an ND you can have a conversation about health and come up with alternatives that work for you.

This is why I see an ND specifically

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,
Donald G. Nutting
Retired Area line manager
Portland General Electric

Name: Donna M Snow Pierson
Date: February 11, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Donna Snow Pierson 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 have had excellent health results with an ND. My blood pressure has been lowered, my cholesterol is low enough I am not in no longer a candidate for meds, my blood tests have improved. I have learned how to control many of my health symptoms with diet and exercise. I appreciate how my ND looks at me as a whole person rather than a list of symptoms to relieve. I really appreciate the conservative nature in regards to pharmaceuticals, especially since I have had a history of adverse reactions and effects from them in the past. Until recently, I have not been able to see an ND as it was not covered by my plan. Now that it is covered, it doesn't fully cover my appointments.

I feel that it is important for patients to be more in control of their health care, however, so many of us are at the mercy of the healthcare system that doesn't consider NDs as qualified healthcare providers. It doesn't seem fair for people to be treated by primary care physicians with very little experience in alternative health care that aids the body in healing rather than simply covering up the symptoms hoping the patient gets better. Patients deserve the choice.

At this point, I don't understand why NDs are not paid at the same rate as other providers. This does not seem fair.

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

Sincerely,

Donna M. Snow Pierson

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth Adair 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 see an NP because I appreciate the holistic approach that she takes to my care. She takes the time to understand me, my lifestyle and overall health. She offers a range of solutions to issues, including changes in diet and behavior, acupuncture, nutritional supplements, and more prescription drugs as needed. The broader, more balanced approach to my health has proven to be very effective in keeping me a healthy and happy person, and minimized the need for prescriptions and expensive medications.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Adair

Name: Elizabeth Larsen

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth 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.

My naturopath, Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, has given me more support in my quest for good health and wellness than any other medical provider I have. I initially went to see her when I had a troubling health condition that my primary care physician dismissed and prescribed a general medication for that I was uncomfortable taking. Dr. Bharadvaj took the time to listen regarding all my symptoms and she asked me pertinent questions that my primary care physician did not. She also had some ideas and ordered additional testing, all of which led me to find an answer and healing. I recognize the importance of my primary care physician, and still see her regularly. But Dr. Bharadvaj is just as important, if not more so.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Larsen

Name: Elizabeth Russell

February 6, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees, My name is Elizabeth Russell 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. My naturopath physician takes the time to spend with both me and my children fully learning both my individual medical history and my family medical history. When my four-year-old son kept getting migraines she spent the time going over my family history to see the relationship between my headaches and his migraines. She also helped us find a treatment that actually worked and he was able to not go on a regular medication that could make him feel sedated.

Currently our primary care doctors are very overworked and can barely spend time with patients. I found I prefer naturopathic coverage because they take the time to spend 45 minutes talking with me about my medical issues and what else is going on in my life. However I have to fight to get my insurance to pay for it and they pay my naturopath half what they pay an MD to see me.

I wish naturopathic providers would be paid equally to MD's or at least at a higher rate because we need these doctors who spend time with individuals and treat them like human beings.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Russell

Rivergrove, Oregon

Name: Elizabeth Singh

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth Singh 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Singh

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill
February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emily Gocobachi Doumerc 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.

- From the ages of 12-25 I experienced chronic pain in my gut, often on a pain level 5-7 that made work, school and engaging with my friends and family difficult. I saw multiple MD's and specialist trying to find a resolution. It wasn't until I saw an ND at the age of 25 that we were able to determine the root cause of the pain and find a permanent solution. I am forever grateful for the holistic and comprehensive care that I received. It was wonderful to be seen as a WHOLE person, not just a symptom and to have a permanent and lasting solution.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Gocobachi Doumerc

February 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Erin Allcutt 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 started seeing my ND upon the referral from my OBGYN after the birth of my second child. While I was experiencing many physical and emotional ailments common to new moms, my actual OBGYN recognized the value of care provided by an ND and strongly recommended that I make an appointment even if I didn't really know what to expect.

I was fairly skeptical at first, but even with my first visit, I instantly valued the experience. This doctor spent a full hour with me. She was seeking to understand all that I had been through and helped me see what was still to come. She set up a plan to get my health back in a truly holistic manner. She has helped me address everything from post-partum troubles nearly five years ago to troubling markers in my bloodwork through a comprehensive view into my diet, how I move my body, what stressors I have in my life and at times, prescription and OTC medications.

Seeing my ND is something I prioritize into my hectic calendar. I'm a busy working mom who often has very little time for herself. One key way I take care of myself is to ensure to set and keep my appointments to check in with this important health provider no matter what.

I'm troubled to learn that Naturopathic Physicians are paid so little compared to other providers I have seen. This makes no sense to me. My ND is able to diagnose the same problems, prescribe the same prescription medications, yet does so with a truly holistic view of my total health in mind. And, she spends more time with me to really check in on my progress and opportunities than any other doctor I've seen in my life.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. My ND has proven over and over again that she is there for me. This is one way that I want to make sure that I'm there for her. I cannot imagine not having her partnership in decisions concerning my health and I want to make sure I can continue to count on her being there for years to come.

I'd love to hear back from you to ensure you have heard my message. I welcome any questions and/or dialogue.

Sincerely,

Erin Allcutt

x

Erin Allcutt

Senior Director, Inventory Excellence – RFID
Connected Product

M +1/512.289.1865 // D +1/503.532.2529

Gail Anderson
6625 W Burnside Street
Portland, OR 97210
February 10, 2019

RE: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Gail Anderson and I am a patient of several Naturopathic Physicians. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I moved to Oregon from Florida because of the access to Naturopathic Physician. I began traveling to Oregon for healthcare several years ago after finding I had many more options in Oregon including Naturopath Doctor's or "ND's." The ND's that treated my family members and/or me in Oregon have been among the finest medical doctors that I have encountered during a full career that took me around the globe and exposed me to myriad healthcare systems and practices. Perhaps the biggest draw for me to the ND option is that the ND's are trained to address the root of the problem as opposed to treating just symptoms. I also appreciate the fact that my ND's have been exposed to other healthcare practices including Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

I have been treated successfully for various ailments including PTSD, Major Depression, hair loss, anxiety and routine healthcare screenings. My care is frequently coordinated with outside facilities or with MD's from other practices depending on who the ND might work with. I like the fact that I was able to reduce my reliance on prescription drugs considerably.

Since you are in a position to advocate for your constituents on an important topic, I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Gail E. Anderson

Gail E. Anderson

From: Glen Fielding
Date: February 7, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

My name is Glen Fielding, and I am a patient of Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, a naturopathic physician in Portland. I would like to highlight several ways in which the naturopathic care I have received over the past five years is an essential and distinctive foundation to my health and wellness.

First, naturopathic care centers on me as a whole person. Rather than seeing particular issues, such as sleep or blood pressure problems, as isolated symptoms calling for isolated prescriptions, a naturopath views problems in a full-person context, taking into account an individual's relationship to his or her mind, body, and heart, to other people, to changing situations, and to the broader social and natural environment. Naturopathy is patient-centered in the fullest and most comprehensive way I've ever experienced.

Second, naturopathy draws on and links to the best in medical science, rather than remaining separate from it, and constructively integrates this science with complementary healing and wisdom traditions. For example, it was my naturopath who suspected I had sleep apnea, a condition that we typically view as part of an MD and not an ND's tradition of care. But naturopaths get to know their patients remarkably well, and, on their behalf, reach out and pull in theory, research, and best practices from a range of health-care paradigms; they are not territorial or restricted to a "fringe" or "alternative" way of helping people. In my case, my naturopath referred me to a sleep medicine center, where I worked with an MD, who prescribed a CPAP machine. And it was my naturopath who helped me most to build on the contributions of the CPAP and develop the kind of mindful self-regulation that has enabled me to create and maintain overall good sleep patterns. Naturopaths are not off to the side of MDs; they are in the center of health-building care.

Third, naturopathy fosters a much more healing and health-flourishing relationship between patient and doctor than the care MDs are able to provide. I see my naturopath for an hour each visit. She knows me well. She so clearly and effectively cares about my health and wellness and facilitates in sensitive ways my own health-related decision-making. I have great respect for MDs and have and will benefit from their care, but MDs do not work in systems that allow them to develop full-person, whole-health relationships with patients. Naturopathy is all about such relationships.

In light of my experience with naturopathic care, I would argue that NDs should be paid at comparable rates to MDs and that insurance companies should cover naturopathic services in the same way they cover MD services.

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

Sincerely,
Glen Fielding
10220 NW Alder Grove Lane
Portland, Oregon 97229

Name: Greg Dalcher

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Greg Dalcher 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Dalcher

Name: Greg Long

Date: 2.1.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Greg Long 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 have had nothing but positive experiences working with my naturopathic physician.

I appreciate the whole body/lifestyle approach to medicine that starts with health care for long term health and not a quick prescription without knowing the whole story.

My physician is looking for root causes of health problems so she can get me on the road to optimal health and not just administer a Band-Aid.

I feel I get superior care with an ND over an MD for my general health needs so why would my Doctor get paid less?

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Greg S. Long

41 SW Bancroft St

Portland OR 97239

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

I strongly support this pay parity bill - parity, not disparity! My daughter is currently a doctoral candidate in Naturopathic medicine at NUNM and it's very important that when she enters her field as a care provider that her pay is fair and that there are incentives for these students to stay in this program. Their training is extensive and science based.

Oregonians deserve these choices in care and ND's are uniquely qualified to provide this specific care. We want more choices and value the skills that ND's have been trained for. Let's not under-utilize what their training brings to the health care field.

I am also a Registered Nurse and have seen clients that seek alternatives to the standard medical model and are motivated to be active in their own care.

Let's support all clients and providers! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Greta Horn
535 NW Bonnie Ct.

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Gwen Montoya and my children are patients 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.

Our ND is the first doctor my kids have ever interacted with that makes them feel heard (literally - her appointments are sixty minutes - when was the last time you spent 60 minutes with a health professional completely focused on your overall health and well being?)

I love that our ND focuses beyond medications and looks at the whole health of my children. She asks how they are doing and listens.

I believe in her care so much, I was prepared to pay cash if my insurance didn't cover her (as a single mom of two, I didn't know HOW I would make it work, but I was going to).

Happily, she is covered by my insurance, but sadly she is paid less than an MD, despite her care being exceptional and miles better than any doctor I have ever seen for my kids or for myself.

I also see the way she is looked down on by MDs (one of my kids is dealing with a mystery health issue, and our ND is coordinating care between my kid and several specialists - which means we've seen more than five different doctors with different specialties in the last six months).

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

Sincerely,

Gwen Montoya
Marketing Strategist

Name: Heidi Zimmerman

Date: 2/5/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Heidi Zimmerman 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 have had much more in depth care, empathy and success in improving my health through naturopathic care than other forms of medicine
- I appreciate that working with an ND means not only avoiding disease, but helping me to achieve optimal health
- Naturopathic care is an invaluable resource to have for those who want to create balance in their lives outside of the use of pharmaceuticals. I want to be able to choose my care from medical practitioners that I feel are the best fit for me.
- I want to be able to have patient choice in who I want to help me with my health journey.
- Without insurance benefits to naturopathic care, I have experienced numerous barriers in my care. I have had to say no to my health many times because of not being able to afford the care I needed. If pay parity existed, I wouldn't have to choose between my health and exceeding my budget.
- I need ND care specifically because I want to be able to care for my body and create health without the use of pills and expensive prescriptions. ND care can help me achieve that.

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Zimmerman

Name: Heminder Singh

Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Heminder Singh 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 have lived in Oregon for more than 30 years, and during that time my family and I have had seen and received care from both Medical and Naturopathic Physicians. I have found Naturopathic Physicians to be competent, knowledgeable and caring professionals who have provided excellent health care for my family and myself. I strongly believe that traditional medicine and naturopathic medicine complement each other, and I appreciate the fact that in Oregon, unlike many other states, I can choose my physician and the kind of care I want for each situation.

Naturopathic physicians deserve to be paid fairly, and I urge you to vote yes on the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Heminder Singh

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Isabelle Lishewski 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 have lived in four different states and have had my share stresses and troubles of finding a naturopathic doctor. Here in Oregon I am so thankful to have found Dr. Bharadvaj and above all really connect with a Doctor I feel comfortable with and who has positively impacted all aspects of my health. In past experiences with regular MDs, my mental, spiritual and emotional health has not been addressed. However with a Naturopath, I feel I am getting holistic treatment and am working to fix the root causes, not just masking symptoms.

I have family members living in Ohio who have never even heard of Naturopathic medicine. I fear for what their MDs are prescribing them or their lack of knowledge about parts of their health they have no idea matter. I cannot stress enough how grateful I am to have access to a Naturopathic Doctor, and especially one that is accessible through my insurance.

I have to say it was not easy finding Dr. Bharadvaj. My insurance made it very challenging to even find naturopathic care in my network. And it wasn't until I did research for my family members back in Ohio that I realized some states don't even have Naturopathic medicine as an option! So despite my troubles searching for a Naturopath, I can't imagine not even having it as an option simply based on where I live.

I see a Naturopath because I believe health is holistic. I love talking through all aspects of life with my naturopath because every part truly affects one's health! We need more Doctors like Dr. Bharadvaj that genuinely care about their patients and take the time to explain ideas, treatments and what's going on in your body as opposed to just simply prescribing a pill!

All in all I want you to know how valuable having affordable access to a Naturopathic doctor is and I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Lishewski

Name: Jackson Grubbe

Date: 2/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Jackson Grubbe and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician, Dr. Tyler Keliheleua. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Dr. K helps me in ways that other doctors don't. He looks for preventative measures and treats me as a comprehensive whole, as opposed to a vessel of isolated problems, each of which can be treated with a different pill.

To make a long story short, I have been extremely sick a few different times, and going to Dr. K for IVs has helped each time. His (and other NDs') service is valuable and should be valued the same as the work of other medical professionals.

I know I am just one voice, but I hope that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Jackson Grubbe

Name: James Dailey

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is James Dailey 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

James Dailey

Name: Janette Heil

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Janette Heil 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Janette Heil

February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

I saw an N.D. roughly eight years ago in Anchorage about a vitamin D deficiency. In reviewing two blood tests he noticed acceleration in my PSA levels and referred me to a urologist who discovered I had prostate cancer. We acted on this discovery quickly and were able to eradicate the cancer seven years ago. I thank Adam Grove N. D. for his quick observation of this problem. He and other N.D's should be fairly compensated for their efforts.

Please vote yes on SB 734.

Jeff Bowden

Name: Jenn Spirgen

Date: 2/12

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jenn Spirgen, 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've been a patient a 5+ NDs and have had nothing but positive experiences. First, I do believe in evidence-based care but do support my health and wellness needs at times with a naturopathic approach. I like having the option, and knowing that I can get this kind of care from a professional that understands both has been the best kind of care I can receive thus far. Their professionalism, knowledge has been not only to par with my interactions with FNPs and PAs, but in some cases, have far exceeded my care plan expectations.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I don't understand why they would be paid differently, when they actually not only have the ability to practice similarly to their counterparts, but also have a more expanded approach to care when needed. Why are we not aligned with what the current demand is? I feel like this parity is far behind where society is at and needs to catch up and make the necessary changes.

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

Sincerely,

Jenn Spirgen

District Manager, PDX - East

503-930-9740 (m)

ZOOM+care®

Name: Jennifer Bland

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jennifer Bland 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bland

Name: Jenny Isailovski

Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

My name is Jenny and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician here in Oregon. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in our state.

My family and I chose to see a naturopath because we wanted medical care that focused on us as a whole person, not just a symptom to cure temporarily. I've had so much more clarity in my overall health and well being since working with a naturopath. My ND is so thorough and appointments are much longer and more in depth than any general practitioner I've seen in the past. A few of my friends have had a lot of success balancing their hormones because when they switched over to a ND as well.

I love that I have the choice of which doctor I want to see and I think they need to be paid just like any other doctor out there.

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

Sincerely,

Jenny

--

Jenny Isailovski

Name: Jill Murphy Long

Date: 2/4/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Jill Murphy Long 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 have always had a positive experience with my naturopathic physicians. They take the time to understand what you're going through - unlike the MDs that see you for 5 minutes and charge outrageous fees.

My family and I have always gone to a naturopathic doctor; we understand and recognize the value of seeing such a professional to help us maintain our well-being of good health. I believe more education is needed so that the general public understands what a naturopathic doctor does and can provide.

They need to understand the amount of schooling that's required to become an ND and until they realize the number of years and classes, precepts and residency that are required of NDs, they won't know of this valuable professional resource available to help them on the preventive side of medicine and including sick care services, too.

We need more NDs and they need to be paid a livable wage, a fair wage, a wage that is on par with what MDs are paid.

But we know who owns the healthcare industry. It's the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies and if they can't make money, then they're not going to endorse or support NDs under their policies.

We need a major healthcare shift. It is not fair to these doctors; it is not fair to the patients, either.

Surgery and pharmaceuticals are not the answer for every day.

Naturopathic medicine is.

We are a sick nation.

America is not healthy.

NDs are the way back to good health.

The insurance companies need to get behind NDs because in the long run, it is going to be cheaper for them.

Lastly, why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen - despite the medical training they receive?

There are 100,000 naturopathic doctors practicing in more than 30 countries.
<http://worldnaturopathicfederation.org/about-naturopathy/>

I am asking that you vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill for our NDs to be recognized and valued for what they offer to Americans and for this to be recognized with their pay.

Sincerely,
Jill Murphy Long
Portland, Oregon

Joanna Gustafson
February 10, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Joanna Gustafson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share with you my experience working with an NP to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon. I suffer from a number of conditions that have been difficult for my traditional doctors to diagnose. These include CRPS (complex regional pain syndrome), adrenal fatigue, sleep issues, weakened immune system, yeast overgrowth, chronic edema and fatty liver issues. My "traditional" MD/specialists have each focused on treating my individual symptoms, and only within their area of specialization, with little success. They have not looked at me as a "whole person"; how different systems of my body might be causing issues in other areas of my body.

In my appointments with NPs, they have taken a more holistic approach to diagnosing my conditions. They have used more comprehensive approaches in treating me as a "whole person", and not just my individual symptoms. These non-traditional modes of care have included dietary modifications, herbal tinctures/medicines, massage and cranio-sacral therapies, and acupuncture. I have experienced more relief from the more comprehensive approach of my NP's than I have from traditional MD specialists, who treat only one symptom at a time. I feel I get more complete care from my NP, and I also believe that their approach provides pain and wellness modalities to alleviate or decrease the intensity of future complications, that could lead to more serious health issues; ones that might remain undetected by a traditional MD/Specialist. Avoiding these future complications saves suffering and money for me, and reduces the strain on our already over-burdened health care system.

Just as the Pay Equity Law was enacted to ensure equal pay for groups of workers in Oregon, there should be legislative remedy to ensure that Naturopathic Physicians are paid the equivalent of MDs with whom they share the same level of education and training. It is wrong for them to be treated as second-class medical providers, and paid at a reduced rate for their services. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Gustafson

Name: Jody McComas

Date: Jan. 30, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jody McComas 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 spent 15 years working with traditional medicine doctors for major health concerns. It wasn't until I found an incredible Naturopathic physician that I felt like I began to get the care that I needed and saw results move in a positive direction. She takes the time with me at each visit (an hour!) unlike the 15 that you so often get in other offices. They look at your health from all angles and help you find the best way forward to help you find real results. I now spend way less time sick, going to doctors because my naturopathic doctor helped me find root issues and get to true healing instead of putting bandaids on things or throwing another medication at it. My choice will always be to see a naturopathic doctor first. I can't imagine why they are paid so much less than other doctors.

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

Sincerely,

Jody McComas

Name: John David

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is John David 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

John David

Name: Joshua Rodrigues

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joshua Rodrigues 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Rodrigues

Name: Joshua Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joshua Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Keliheleua

Name: Joyce Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joyce Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Keliheleua

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie and I had my first experience as a patient of an Naturopathic Physician last summer. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I met with this new doctor (Dr Alicia Hart) and our appointment was over an hour together! She was relaxed and looked over my previous medical history and took the time to explain everything in easy to understand terms, and state what things I could do to be healthier. I felt understood and valued, and not rushed--which is super rare in the medical world!

I'm really sad that my ND doesn't get paid enough for the value of her work. She is a huge asset to the community and truly truly cares about her patients and everyone in general. Please help her get paid adequately for her work!

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

Sincerely,
Julie Jacob
Portland, Oregon

Name:

Date:

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie Meeker 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. After becoming frustrated with my primary MD who did not seem to be listening to my concerns and getting to the root of my symptoms, I switched to a naturopath.

My naturopath approaches my symptoms in an investigative manner, listening to my concerns and asking me questions to clarify she understands me clearly. She has managed my condition with competence and has improved my quality of life. I feel heard, cared for, and empowered to make wise choices for my health with her guidance.

Given the time she takes to provide care for me and her other patients, I would like to understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen, especially given the answers to care I have found through her when I met dead ends with my MD. The naturopathic approach to holistically treating a condition is an important and effective method to health management.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Meeker

Name: Justin Tiret

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Justin Tiret 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Justin Tiret

Name: Kaden Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kaden Arnold

Name: Kari Shirtz

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kari Shirtz 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kari Shirtz

Name: Karin Sharp

Date: 2/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Karin Sharp 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.

- Positive experiences working with a ND is that they treat at you as whole person rather than a symptom
- What I appreciate about working with an ND on my health is that they look for the root cause verses treating the symptoms only. My ND has solved problems in 1 appointment that I'd seen the primary care physician 3-4 times over the course of a year.
- Value of naturopathic care – less cost of care overall when root cause can be treated verses ongoing medication costs and possible side effects of ongoing treatments
- I see an ND specifically because the options provided when visiting my primary care physician aren't providing a solution, they provide options to relieve my symptoms which isn't acceptable when living with a chronic illness.
- Naturopathic physicians should be treated as an equal option to primary care physician, covered by insurance and paid equally for services

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

Sincerely,

Karin Sharp

Name: Karina Dinehart

Date: February 15, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Karina Dinehart 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 have been living with a fibromyalgia diagnosis and chronic pain for over 15 years. I have seen a number of traditional medical doctors since then. It has been numerous 10 minute appointments from doctors who don't have the time to get to know me or my file and history leading to unsuccessfully treating symptoms and misdiagnosis's.

Since I began seeing Doctor Amanda Roe, she has taken the time to learn and diagnose my health issues with real and lasting solutions. My pain is lessened for the first time in 15 years. She also treats my daughter and now son and husband, after seeing the exceptional care she has taken with me. She won't settle for a 10 minute appointment and works tirelessly until she can find answers to treat existing and preventative health of the entire person.

I have never seen a more professional and outstanding physician. She should be compensated equally if not above other doctors. While a clinic physician might spend 10 mins with a patient and move on Dr Roe will spend an hour with a patient while at the appointment and numerous hours after researching and finding the best patient care possible

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

Sincerely,

Karina Dinehart

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate & House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kathryn Lyons and I have been seeing Naturopathic Doctors for more than 30 years now.

My first visit was when I was pregnant with my first child and developed a urinary tract infection. I did not want to take any chemical drug or antibiotic that could in any way disrupt the safety of my pregnancy. A Naturopathic Dr. gave me a natural botanical treatment that had zero side effects, and completely took care of the UT infection.

After this experience, I continued to see this Naturopathic Doctor (Dr. Noel Peterson, ND, Lake Oswego, OR) and have also seen others. Dr. Peterson has developed, and now specializes in regenerative joint care - in most cases, preventing one from having to have surgeries to replace joints if one gets care before too much damage has been done to the joint. At 57 years, I have had his treatment on several joints, including a complete reversal of a frozen shoulder. I cannot recommend his treatments enough!

Although I believe there is place for allopathic MDs, I do believe that Naturopathic Doctors provide superior care and prevention for one's overall health, as Naturopathic Doctors actually go to the source of disease, instead of just a band-aid approach. Naturopathic Doctors are vital to our community and should be compensated as such.

I am asking that you Please VOTE YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lyons

Name: Kelly Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Arnold

Kimberlea Wilson
January 25, 2019
Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kimberlea Wilson 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 appreciate working with an ND on my health because she spends time finding the root of the symptom I am experiencing and treats my body back to homeostasis. I do not believe in taking pharmaceuticals to mask symptoms, and not treat the real issue. I do not want artificial chemicals in my body producing worse or further side effects for myself or my daughter.
-
- I see an ND specifically because she spends quality time with me each visit asking a holistic variety of questions regarding my overall health, not just the acute issue I am experiencing. It is important to me I treat my body to the root and repair it's self back to health. I value the time I get with my ND and her knowledge to help my health holistically.

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

Sincerely,

Kimberlea Wilson

Name: Kymerli Colbourne

Date: 2/13/19


Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

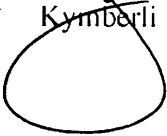
My name is Kymerli Colbourne and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I use my Naturopathic Physician as my primary care provider and appreciate her ability to use conventional medical treatments along side naturopathic supportive treatment plan along with all preventative measures.

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

Sincerely,



Kymerli Colbourne



Lauren Lambert

1/25/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Lauren Lambert and I have seen Naturopathic Physicians since 2008 when I needed help addressing significant health concerns. I feel my quality of life has been positively impacted especially as I'm working with people who share my health perspective. NDs provide an environment for growing and learning, and I feel encouraged through somewhat discouraging health trials.

In my experience NDs are extremely knowledgeable, attentive, and comprehensive they value care for various factors in health (not simply physical, but emotional as well), and coordinate care for integrated body systems and functions (one example: how digestive health and the brain are related). I also appreciate the openness and honesty in being referred to other specialists when necessary which shows a collaborative environment.

I highly regard the educational background of Naturopathic Doctors as evidenced by their years of training, experience, and expertise. I also trust NDs in caring for my young children. I believe that by seeing an ND I am investing in my future and my family's future by working on preventative health. I feel I am receiving personalized care.

I highly value this profession in the state of Oregon and I believe it is an absolutely necessary field. Doctors should be compensated fairly to continue encouraging this practice.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Lambert

Name: Leah Harrison

Date: 02/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Leah Harrison 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 have had many positive experiences working with a Naturopathic physician over my lifetime. As I child, when I had food allergies, the first to suggest this possibility was a NP. Following that I did have a skin allergy test, confirming the allergies.

I appreciate working with a Naturopathic physician because I feel they truly work to heal you and help you to live a healthier life – therefore requiring much less frequent visits to a MD or the urgent care. I have worked with an ND over the years to regulate my bold sugars, regulate my menstrual cycle and for varying degrees of sinus problems. All with success! And with a natural approach, only heading to the MD for a true sinus infection or for yearly exams when truly necessary.

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

Sincerely,

Leah Harrison

Date: 02.05.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Lonnie L. Port 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.

My recent experience began just last month, and it has been a great relief to get detailed attention for my hormonal issues; details that my general physician was unwilling or unable to provide. I learned of my ND from my boss at work, who referred Dr. Daivati, describing her as very in depth and extremely thorough. I can tell you that she took a much deeper dive into my blood work and found a few very illuminating details, explaining why I wasn't sleeping and why I was having over 20 hot flashes a day. Now, after only a couple of weeks of taking a very low dose of equalized hormones, created specifically for me, I'm feeling better than I have for years. (Something I was beginning to fear was out of reach for me at my age).

Words cannot express how appreciative I am to find a ND healthcare provider that takes a deeper dive into what seems like an ordinary healthy 54 year old woman and took the time to explain my blood test results in detail and work with me to regain my health and wellness. I am now looking forward to improved health and happier times ahead.

My general physician is a wonderful woman, but I feel she has too many patients and not enough time to dive into my particular hormonal harmony the way I needed her to do for me. I can't say for sure if it is a matter of time, knowledge or worry. (She was afraid that if I took hormones, I would be increasing my chance of breast cancer). Whatever the barrier, I was left feeling hopeless and unwell. Something that I really hadn't felt during the course of my life and it wasn't good.

I am really grateful that I'm able to have my general physician on hand, but also am able to seek the deeper knowledge of a naturopathic physician for issues beyond broken bones and mammograms.

In closing, for the above hormonal example that I've recently shared, it is my humble opinion that naturopathic physicians should be paid a fair rate for the invaluable services they are able to provide. There is currently too wide a gap in pay between the two health care providers that I enjoy in tandem to help me chart my health through the 2nd phase of my life.

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

Kindest regards,

Lonnie L. Port
4007 SE Reedway Street
Portland, OR 97202
503.860.2111

Name: Lorrie Oltman

Date: February 15, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Lorrie Oltman 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 have been a patient of an ND, Dr. Dreager at Natural Health Works in Oregon City, for 7 years. The care I receive from Dr. Dreager is an important part my overall wellbeing. I get excellent care that provides professional, unique, and successful treatment.
- We are fortunate that Dr. Dreager's services are covered by our insurance. If this were not the case we may not be able to afford this important part of my medical care.

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

Sincerely,

Lorrie Oltman

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

I have been working almost exclusively with Naturopathic Physicians for 14 years since my oldest son was a toddler. I tried numerous MDs to help with mysterious systems with his skin, bowels and behavior that no one helped. After one visit to an ND a persistent rash he had went away and never returned.

Since then I have entrusted my care with NDs for my other two children and myself. I find that their holistic view helps find underlying root causes rather than quick fixes that only treat the surface symptom.

Their education and wisdom is no less than someone who has an MD and I believe they deserve equal recognition on being included in insurance benefits as well as equivalent pay.

Please vote yes on the naturopathic physician parity bill.

Sincerely,

Maija Ryan
503-953-5535

February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Marissa Emery 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.

My naturopathic doctor has supported my return to health for the past six+ years. In stark contrast to MDs I have seen in the past, my ND takes the time to listen to my whole health history to get a full picture of my health and the contributing factors. She has helped me address lifestyle changes and stress management in ways that have felt achievable; this has simultaneously targeted the chronic complaints I have had AND also changed my overall health and wellness for the better. The holistic nature of this medical care is so valuable, and NDs should be paid comparably to their peers.

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

Sincerely,

Marissa Emery

Name: Marlo Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Marlo Grubbe 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 am almost 50 years old and have been seeing a naturopathic physician for many years to deal with my hormone issues, anxiety, sleep challenges as well as a number of other issues. I have been able to have success and without using pharmaceuticals and have been able to manage my own self care without using the "system" to pay for my health and wellness

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

Sincerely,

Marlo Grubbe

Name: Matt Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Matt Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Sanders

Name: Matthew Jacobsen with MTSL Group

Date: 2/1/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Matthew Jacobsen and I am an owner of a billing company that works with many ND's. I would like to share my experience working with several NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

I personally had some significant healthcare issues for many years. As someone who had worked with MDs in Oregon for several years I had no shortage of top-quality professional advice on what may be afflicting me. In fact, I had roundtable discussions with several doctors at once but to no avail. Until I ventured into the ND world about 5 years ago. On my first ND, the ND correctly diagnosed my problem, ordered the test to prove it, and upon making the required change I was well again for the first time in 10-years. What else can I say? For me, that single visit with my ND was worth more than the 100's of MD visits I had prior.

Since then I have worked closely with NUNM and built my business to cater to NDs so I can help them as they helped me. I've seen first hand the education, competence and professionalism that is taught in the school and I've seen that translate into the real world.

My company processes the bills for about 40 different practices, MD & ND and I've also seen that NDs get paid less than MDs for doing more work which is a travesty. If the goal of healthcare is better outcomes at lower costs there should be no question that NDs are doing that.

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

Sincerely,

**Matthew Jacobsen
MTSL Group**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Jacobsen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Name: Megan Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Megan Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Megan Arnold

Name: Melanie Rickmann

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Melanie Rickmann 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Melanie Rickmann

Name: Melissa Canning

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Melissa Canning 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Canning

Dear Sen Monnes Anderson and Oregon Health Care Committee,

I am writing to you regarding the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill. I and my family have been patients of Naturopathic doctors for 20+ years. ND's are the founders of Functional Medicine which some MD's are now promoting as a specialty (as does my own DO).

Naturopathy has been vital to my own health and that of my family as well as a core component of our preventive medicine. It helped us discover food allergies that were making us sick, a genetic mutation affecting our absorption of B12 and more.

I believe all insurance carriers should be required to provide the same coverage for ND's and they do for MD's as both play an essential role of our overall health and well being. It also lowers healthcare costs making good financial sense.

Being paid a fair and livable wage is only right! I ask that you vote YES in favor of this bill.

Thank you!

All the best,

Michele Brasfield

Date: 2/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Michelle Crosby 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 have used a naturopathic physician as my primary care provider for over a decade. I have found that I have received considerably more face time with my provider than I ever did with a general practitioner. Because of that, I believe I have received very specific and accurate care. My naturopathic provider considers my entire health history each and every time I visit her. She knows me and is able to apply not only expertise in the medical field, but also a deeper level of caring and intuition toward me as a person because she knows me well. I am always given both medical and natural options when she is prescribing care. I sincerely believe that naturopathy is valuable and should work in cooperation with traditional medicine. My provider accomplishes this expertly and with honest empathy.

Patient choice, especially in the United States of America, should be honored when an individual selects a primary care physician. I was devastated when my provider informed me that due to a change in my insurance coverage (provided by a public school district) requires me now to pay huge out of pocket visit fees in addition to our monthly insurance premiums when my family chooses naturopathic providers. This makes no sense to me.

Furthermore I have recently learned that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to other providers. When I compare the quality of care that I have received from my naturopathic provider to the decades of care I received from traditional providers, well honestly there is no comparison! No traditional provider has ever spent even close to the amount of quality time with me nor advised such wholistic, long-lasting solutions as the two naturopathic providers I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Crosby

Name: Monica Finn

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Monica Finn 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Monica Finn

Name: Nate Cooper

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nate Cooper 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Nate Cooper

Name: Owen Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Owen Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Owen Grubbe

Name: Nicole Gottfried

Date: February 11, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Nicole Gottfried 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 have been seeing Naturopaths for over 20 years and have received far superior care to what I was getting from a Medical Doctor. Naturopaths allow more time at every appointment so that the patient can be heard, does not feel rushed, and concerns are met. MDs allow 10-15 minutes max; long enough to listen to the reason you are there and prescribe a pill to mask your symptoms. I am thankful that Insurance has covered Naturopaths and given me the choice to decide who I see. I hope that Naturopaths will be compensated more fairly, as they have done so much more for me than MDs have – Yet they are paid so much less.

As I mentioned, I have seen Naturopaths for years. My primary care physician is a ND not a MD and she is there to help with everything from a cold to my disabling disease. She offers remedies, supplements, special diet plans, massage therapy, as well as prescriptions when needed. She goes above and beyond any MD. I have experienced improved general health and my MS symptoms are under control without the nasty side effects of harsh drugs that my Neurologist had prescribed me in the past.

It is my hope that everyone be able to experience the value of naturopathic care. That disease can be cured and not just masked with harmful drugs. That everyone has the choice to choose who treats them. That health insurance will cover NDs and that NDs will be paid the same as MDs.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Gottfried

Name: Niven Singh

Date: February 13th, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Niven Singh 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.

Over the years, Naturopathic physicians are the only doctors I have interacted with who are intent on resolving the root cause of an ailment or condition. As a result, the immediate issue is resolved but also one's overall health is addressed. Preventative care is a direct result of working with naturopathic doctors, resulting in a healthier community. So why is it that naturopathic doctors are paid so little compared to other providers when they are doing work to enhance the general public's welfare?

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

Sincerely,

Niven Singh

Name: Priscilla Pimentel

Date: February 1st, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Priscilla Pimentel 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 appreciate that every time I've come in, I get taken care of well. I do not feel rushed, I feel that my concerns and wants are being listened to. I really like the fact that I get the best of both worlds with my ND. I've only had positive experiences here, and I rather go out of my way to get to this naturopathic physician's office than go anywhere else. Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Priscilla Pimentel

Name: Prisha Kukkal

Date: 2/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Prisha Kukkal 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 grew up in Oregon and have had a very positive experience with my naturopathic physician. I really appreciate all the work that she has done for me, and my quality of life has improved immensely since she became my naturopathic physician. The treatments that I have received have been more beneficial to me than those that other doctors have prescribed. I believe that there is true value in naturopathic medicine.

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

Sincerely,

Prisha Kukkal

Name: Rahim Tufts

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rahim Tufts 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Rahim Tufts

Name: Rebekah Montrose

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rebekah Montrose 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Rebekah Montrose

Name: Renae Henderson

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Renae Henderson 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Renae Henderson

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

My name is Robin Moore 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.

My whole family (husband, son and I) have been patients of an ND for 10 years now. We feel this has been beneficial to our whole family because our doctor (and others in the practice) take time to understand the whole body, not I just try to treat symptoms.

During this time my family and I have had various health issues that we have been able to have identified and managed without the need for costly tests, procedures or medications. The naturopathic approach takes a more holistic view of health which ultimately has lead to us all being able to lead healthy lives without becoming reliant on medication.

I can personally attest to the difference and value of an ND because I had various health issues that had been previously unsuccessfully identified or treated by MDs for the previous 15 years prior to seeing an ND. During the period of time when I was seeing MDs, I was subjected to many costly tests, scans, procedures and medications of which I'm one identified the problem or provide relief.

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

Sincerely,
Robin Moore

February 13, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee,

I have been a patient of a Naturopathic physician for over 35 years, which is over half my life. Naturopathic medicine emphasizes building one's own immune system to prevent disease and to health from sickness and injury quickly. It relies on the medicine that nature provides, making it accessible, cost effective, and safe. I am rarely sick and when I am, I am back on my feet quickly. Most people I know get sicker every year with colds and flu that hang on for weeks.

I notice, though, that Naturopathic physicians are not compensated fairly when compared to conventional physicians. I urge you to support the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Thank you.

Regards,

Sally Rose
South Beach, Oregon

Name: Samira F Tannure

Date: Feb 1, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Samira F Tannure 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've had visited many other types of physicians, and yet I was never thoroughly heard until I consulted with an ND. I consider my ND now my primary doctor because of the outstanding care provided every time I go in for an appointment. The holistic approach to and understanding of my health needs have never been so completely satisfied by any other provider.

I believe there is unique value in naturopathic care and do not see a reasonable explanation to differentiate it from any other choice of care available to patients. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Samira F Tannure

Name: Sarah Davis

Date: 2/8/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Sarah Davis 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.

Naturopathic physicians are a critical part of the healthcare system. They tend to spend **more time** with me and work to understand what the underlying causes are of my symptoms. I have used an ND for years for primary care as well as for acute ailments.

Naturopathic physicians also have a larger arsenal of treatment options. I have had experiences seeing both an MD and an ND for the same issue at different times. The MD prescribed a medication that cost me \$15 and cost more for the insurance company. The ND prescribed a mixture of VINEGAR and WATER. Both remedies were equally effective. This, to me, sums up the importance of naturopathic physicians. They can treat ailments using both traditional medicine *and* more natural remedies, which are **less costly** (or free!) to patients and the healthcare system as a whole.

It is unfathomable that Naturopathic Physicians are paid less than doctors in mainstream care facilities. In my experience, they provide equal or better care and I get **more options** for how to treat my symptoms from MDs—both evidence-based and traditional methods.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Davis
Wilsonville, OR

Name: Sarah Wayland

Date: February 9, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Sarah Wayland 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.

- After 17 years (2001 – 2018) of being undiagnosed, I was introduced to Heidi Peterson, ND, mold infection specialist in March of 2018.
- From 2009 – 2017 we spent between \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year Out Of Pocket even though we had “excellent” medical coverage because I was unable to find solutions through western medicine so turned to alternative methods. I was told by western doctors that I was a hypochondriac, should stop looking online and that it was all in my head.
- From 2001 - 2018 a naturopathic doctor helped me to –
 - o Improve my depression through Vitamin D.
 - o Determine that I did, in fact, have Hypothyroidism and treat it appropriately.
 - o Determined that eating well and losing weight was imperative for me and assisted toward that end.
- When I met Dr. Peterson I was sleeping eight (8) or nine (9) hours per night and two (2) to four (4) hours per day.
 - o Today I sleep eight (8) or nine (9) hours per night and I may or may not take a 45-60 minute nap during the day.
- In 2013 I became unable to manage my accounting position within a few months due to the mold infection. I was suddenly no longer able to work.
- In 2014 because of my loss of income, we were forced into filing for bankruptcy with excellent credit scores.
- In 2015 I discovered through an alternative path that my testosterone was at 50%. There is not a treatment through Western medicine for women due to the difference in testosterone strengths between men and women.
 - o Alternative methods of providing women testosterone can be expensive. Since 2015 I have spent between \$350 and \$700 per quarter out of pocket.
- All naturopaths I have worked with have considered both western and naturopathic approaches unlike western doctors.
- I utilize both ND’s and MD’s for different reasons and do not understand why they are not treated equally in all aspects.
- We all know that our health care system isn’t working for everybody. Giving ND’s the same respect, pay and insurance inclusion would make

them a viable choice for a patient. This is one step that would help overcome some of the barriers to wellness and improve our flagging health care system in general.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Wayland
wayland63@gmail.com
541-844-8116

Name: Shannon Meade

Date: 02/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Shannon Meade, 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.

- When I or my child visit our ND, we are given ample time to thoroughly discuss both health and development. Each appointment lasts longer than any visit I have been provided with our usual MDs. We then have the opportunity to be educated and thoroughly understand each concern.

- For my son specifically we are finally getting to the bottom of his sleep issues and food sensitivities, issues I have raised with his MD multiple times and only provided with limited options and information. The depth of the information we've been provided by our ND has been incredibly helpful!

- My question is why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? More time and attention has always been provided to us in this context, and that time had been invaluable!

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Meade

Shelley Rosales

2/11/19

Re: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Shelley Rosales, 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 struggled with fertility and thyroid issues for a very long time. I had seen other doctors, regular OBs and MDs who did not address my issues at all, gave me very little time in their offices, and generally made me feel fairly stupid about any of my problems. When I started seeing an ND for these issues, it was the first time I felt heard and truly cared for in a very long time. My whole body and all my issues were addressed, time and compassion were granted to me, and I truly believe after 3 miscarriages that had it not been for the careful attention paid to my pregnancy at the time by an ND, my child would not have been born or been as healthy as he was.

I work in healthcare personally, so I am no fool as to how the system works, how corrupt it can be, and how little naturopathic care is given respect. I know that naturopathic medicine is not valued, though there are no grounds for it. One such example goes like this. Right before I discovered I was pregnant with my son, I visited a general practitioner, a PCP just to establish care because I thought it would be a good idea to have someone enlisted besides my midwife. When I discussed my past history and what a ND had done for me, blood work, tests, etc. to see why I had trouble conceiving and carrying a child, the MD listened and agreed that all the tests done were excellent, what she would have done herself, and that I was clearly in excellent care with that midwife/ND. When she discovered after telling her all of this that my midwife/ND was a naturopathic physician, she back-pedaled, and started declaring to me how scared she was for me, that I wasn't in good hands, that my unborn child was in danger. Her only basis for this reaction was on the title of Naturopathic Physician: it had nothing to do with the care I had been given. It was utter nonsense.

Naturopathic Physicians receive more education than an MD, or even a DO. What they are required to learn and practice has value for people who don't want another pill or side effect from a drug. We need people who are committed to giving whole body care, who listen to patients without judgment or wrong motive. When I have been in their care, I have direct access to my doctor: I don't have to go through a gauntlet of nurses or MAs or assistants or answering services. Everyone should be able to get care like this. We shouldn't have to fight to keep the healthcare we want to have! Is it not enough we are paying exorbitant

premiums and deductibles and out of pockets for limited healthcare, but now to have the threat of not choosing the doctors we want as well? I beg of you to consider that Oregon is a place people want to be because they are able to get good quality naturopathic medicine. Is this not the home of the NCNM? Do you really want this state to be known as a place that used to be worth living in for values such as these but now is no better than other narrow-minded states?

I am asking that you would vote yes on the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Shelley Rosales

Name: Simona Hanganu

Date: Feb 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Simona Hanganu 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 have been seeing Dr. Khivan Oberoi, ND for the past 5 years and my life quality has greatly improved. She listens to me and my needs and provides expert care that not only improves my physical wellbeing, but my mental health as well. She truly is knowledgeable in all aspects of my health, providing a whole body and mind care and I see her as my primary care physician. I trust her with my health and have always received the best care.

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

Sincerely,

Simona Hanganu

Name: Spencer Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Spencer Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Spencer Grubbe

Name: Steve Oltman

Date: February 11, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Steve Oltman 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.

- About two years ago I hurt my shoulder very badly. An orthopedic surgeon described the surgery I would need as “heroic”. I would be in a sling for months followed by months and months of physical therapy and results were not guaranteed. I elected to be treated by an ND, Dr. Peterson at ORM in Lake Oswego, using PRP injections and exercise. I am not over stating it when I describe the results as life changing. I now do hot yoga three times a week and my shoulder feels terrific.
- My entire experience and interaction with Dr. Peterson and the entire staff at ORM was professional, positive and successful.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Oltman

Name: Susan Langston

Date: 2/6/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Susan Langston 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.

My naturopathic physician provide similar service to an MD – in fact, because they take the time to understand my specific situation they can provide excellent care.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Name: Susan Reiss

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Susan Reiss 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Reiss

Name: Tamer Kiykioglu

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tamer Kiykioglu 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tamer Kiykioglu

Name: Tammi Burg

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Tammi Burg 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.

Since seeing a Naturopathic Physician I have seen optimal health improvement in treating me as a whole person, getting to the root cause of health issue, instead of the conventional approach a M.D. who merely treats the symptoms with overpriced pharmaceuticals, not dealing with the root cause of illness relating to all levels of health concerns.

Working with an ND has radically changed my health and optimal well being. My ND takes all the time needed to discuss health care plans with me so that I clearly understand protocols for optimal health in a holistic approach, which is critical for me.

The choice for me as a patient to see a qualified ND, over a conventional MD is night and day! When seeing conventional MD's I was never given appropriated time to get to the root cause, but was given a prescription for over priced pharmaceuticals that have adverse side effects, making my health more vulnerable and never improving my health conditions.

I am a person who takes excellent care of my body, exercise daily, spend a lot of time researching health and have gained much knowledge from doing so. I would not consider seeing an MD over and ND for all the reasons listed above, to sum up, living life in holistic manner, improving my quality of life to an optimal degree.

I can NOT understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to other providers I have seen, this seems unfair and unreasonable.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill, it,s the fair thing to do.

Sincerely,

Tammi Burg

From: Teresa Joseph, Oregon resident

Date: 02/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Teresa Joseph 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 suffer from an autoimmune disorder called Hashimoto's (Thyroid). Traditional medicine detected a change in my overall Thyroid panel but attributed this to age and no further testing was deemed necessary. At the time I was barely 50 years old. I felt strongly that there these numbers and my symptoms were trying to tell me something. In 2014 I was referred to a ND by a friend so I decided to give this doctor a try and it was the best decision I ever made. This physician was able to run appropriate blood tests that revealed a high level of thyroid antibodies, diagnosing me with Hashimoto's. Since working closely with my ND I was successfully able to lose 42 pounds and regain my energy levels.

Another key point I feel important is that NDs are not afraid to use traditional medicine when deemed necessary. They will opt for natural methods when available, but ultimately will prescribe antibiotics and other standard medications if they feel it is in the best interest of the patient.

In today's medical environment the word "Choice" is bantered about quite a bit (most commonly a woman's right to choose). I feel that choice of medical providers is definitely needed. We see less and less options available as insurance companies drop doctors and limit those choices to select few. Having naturopathic care as one of the options available is necessary for many of us battling conditions that warrant a whole body approach.

I have had some barriers to seeing my ND even though she is able to provide exceptional treatment and this actually saves money in the long run. Most people with Hashimoto's are encouraged to seek treatment from an Endocrinologist. Many of my peers with the same disorder report that most endocrinologists do not take their symptoms seriously and will not change medications when symptoms are not improving. In addition these specialists are quite expensive. So why don't insurance companies see the value in this? Overall they would be saving substantially more money by allowing their policy holders to seek care of a qualified ND.

One of the main reasons I seek treatment from my ND is because of the fact that the overall care is above the normal standard and the cost is the same or much less in the long run. Why are insurance companies paying these providers substantially less for better care? This seems wrong to me and should be corrected immediately. I implore you to do everything you can to fight the insurance companies on my behalf (and countless others who rely on their ND for treatment).

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

Sincerely,



Teresa Joseph
Life long Oregon resident

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

My name is Teresa Lockwood 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 was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in 1987. I was told there is no known cause and no known cure for lupus and was prescribed Prednisone, which ended up destroying my immune system and my joints. I still suffer the side effects and degeneration of my joints. My ankles have been fused, my right shoulder replaced, and most likely will have to have a hip replacement, all due to long-term use of corticosteroids.

I have restored my immune system and gut health with the help of naturopathic physicians (25 years later). It changed my life! Lupus was cured through dietary and lifestyle changes that I learned from "alternative" doctors. I am extremely grateful to the guidance and teachings of naturopathic physicians! I am 61 and feel great. However, I will need the guidance of my ND as well as MDs as I deal with the joint issues going forward.

Besides lupus, I have been diagnosed with anxiety, depression, PTSD, and addiction. I no longer suffer with any of these diseases! I am now a healthy woman – body, mind, soul, and spirit. This is why I need to continue to see an ND, specifically, since their guidance has contributed to my healing.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am especially concerned about this difference because naturopathic physicians have helped me far more than any other provider that I have had. They deserve MORE!

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Lockwood
3257 Jay Ct NW
Salem, OR 97304

Name: Terri Mundt

Date: February 5, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Terri Mundt, 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.

- Positive experiences working with naturopathic physician. I have rheumatoid arthritis, and Dr Daiviti has been supportive and caring and has been a positive help in my way to better health
- What I appreciate about working with an ND on my health: Working with Dr. Daiviti is so different from working with an MD. I go into her office, and she sits on the couch with me and listens while I tell her why I'm there, nothing like the maybe 5 minutes I get with my MD who just prescribes more drugs. She offers both natural medicines and hands-on body work for my pain.
- Value of naturopathic care: The care I receive is helpful, beneficial, and it works. Yes, it involves my participation in my own health, and it's just not looking for a quick fix.
- Patient choice: I would always choose a naturopath for my care, except that my insurance does not cover her services. I consider my visits a necessary treat that I cannot always afford.
- General barriers to care: If Medicare and my Medicare Advantage Plan covered naturopathic care, it would always be my first choice.
- This is why I see an ND specifically: personal care and remedies that work but do not require prescriptions or drugs.
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? If Medicare covered naturopaths, they could be paid like MDs. Since Medicare doesn't offer coverage, the other plans feel they don't need to cover it, either.

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

Sincerely,

Terri Mundt
8905 NW Ash Street
Portland OR 97229

Name: Gary Parks

Date: January 21, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Gary Parks 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.

My family and I have been seeing Dr. Chapman and his wife for quite a few years now. We searched for quite a while to find a physician that would listen and understand. Most of our experiences were not pleasant. We recognized if we didn't fit into a box that we would be marginalized. Since seeing the Chapmans we have noticed a few things; They spend personalized time listening and understanding our situation at every visit. Situations that were not resolved with 4 plus other physicians were resolved with their tenacity and care. A willingness to refer if we needed other experts. A willingness to learn and work with other modes they were not familiar with. We have never felt put down or stupid. Instead, we have felt valued and honored every time we visit. For the money, hands down we feel that the care we receive is more "bang for the buck" than anything we have found so far.

I do wonder why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Gary Parks

02/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tiffany Emmett 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. We have been working with NDs for several years, but our primary experience has been with "Canyon Medical Center" and with the birth of our baby girl Wren. The importance of a ND is the focus on preventive care with an effort to reduce intervention. For example, our little girl decided to flip herself in the womb, requiring an inversion. At the medical center one of the Doctors attempted to complete an inversion and when Wren would not flip she stopped and we tried another day with DR. Dewitt and an acupuncturist, Wren flipped right back into place. In a hospital it is not too uncommon for an epidural to be put into place or just to try to force the baby into place despite extreme pain to the mother. Also, my husband's experience has included psoriasis being cured with Vitamin D coupled with a prescription to be more active and to get out in the sun more often. His back pain was treated with yoga (never to come back, though he stopped his practice). So far, the side effects from all our treatments we have received from our treatments with NDs has been bad tasting tinctures, improved mood from destressing breath techniques/increased exercise, being reminded to eat healthy, not to drink too much and professional guidance that empowers us to not only treat the symptom but to treat the underlying causes. The most important of all, we have a healthy beautiful girl and we trust the doctors at "Canyon Medical Center" before all others. It is also important to note that when our NDs at "Canyon Medical Center" were not in a position to help us they promptly advised us on who to see. An ND may not be the right choice in every situation, but neither is a MD. It should be a choice available for all to determine what who is the best suited to advise and treat them with their health needs and requirements.

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

Sincerely,

Tiffany and Trevor Emmett

Name: Tobie Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tobie Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tobie Sanders

Toby Shulruff
January 29, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Toby Shulruff and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician, as are my two children, Asher, 8, and Esther, 4. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My family receives the highest quality care: we meet with our ND for hour-long appointments in which she asks about our basic health, as well as social and emotional wellbeing. She knows each of us, and all of us as a family. She is able to offer us options including nutrition, pharmaceutical, and complimentary medicine.

My ND is also a midwife, and she provided excellent prenatal care to my family and me. Not only did she visit us at home the night before the birth to help us prepare to go to the hospital the next day, she made sure the hospital was prepared to receive us, and she stayed at the hospital all day until we had stabilized after the birth. She was only able to bill insurance for a standard office visit (and that at an unequally low rate, I have learned!), despite providing over 10 hours of care. She then followed up with us at home the next day to perform wellness checks for my daughter and myself.

Last year, I was distressed after a lab visit to another facility that involved poor bedside manner. My ND referred me to a specialist for future care, and personally followed up to ensure the referral went through successfully.

I believe that every patient in Oregon deserves this level of care. And I believe that my ND should be equally compensated with MD's for the even higher standard of care she offers.

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

Sincerely,
Toby Shulruff

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When you're moving in the positive, the destination is the brightest star!

-Stevie Wonder

Name: Tracey Tired

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tracey Tired 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tracey Tired

Name: Travis Magrane

Date: 2/12/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Travis Magrane and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I'm writing today to urge you to vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

I have long appreciated the level of care and consideration I have received from naturopathic physicians. They take the time to listen, to inquire and consider the holistic picture of my health and wellbeing. When receiving health care from medical doctors, I often feel like I'm receiving care via a drive through window – as though I'm just another patient to fit in a 15-minute window. This is not to disparage medical doctors, only that the level of care and attention naturopathic physicians provide often far exceed those of medical doctors. Further, they support preventative and lifestyle adjustments to medical concerns in concert with other recommendations such as supplements or prescriptions, working to identify and treat the root cause of an issue rather than purely mask the symptom.

It follows that – at minimum – naturopathic physicians should be paid commensurate to medical professionals with similar educational experience.

It is a shame the many naturopathic physicians – who must complete years of intense medical study and often go into significant debt to do so – do not receive pay equity under current practice.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to other health care professionals?

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

Sincerely,

Travis Magrane

February 9, 2019

Re: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Vanessa Blake and I have been a patient of a Naturopathic Physician for nearly a decade. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I love my naturopathic doctor and appreciate how she is able to quickly focus in on a diagnosis. She is able to prescribe herbal remedies that treat my ailments without the negative side effects that drugs have. Using naturopathic remedies that don't leave me feeling drugged is SO important to me because drugs do not behave well in my body. She is forward thinking about alternate forms of medicine. For instance, rather than using drugs to treat a cold, I can go in for a hydrotherapy treatment. She knows what orthobionomy is and how to use it to create immediate pain relief -- without drugs.

I particularly appreciate her helping me pinpoint what's wrong, rather than shrugging her shoulders when I continue to feel unwell and saying "I don't know what's wrong with you" and leaving me still sick and unsatisfied (which is what led me to her in the first place!). She "hears" me. She is more in tune with the body and how to heal it, and that's vitally important to my health and wellbeing.

I am fortunate that my company feels that alternative forms of medicine, including naturopathic, are important to its employees and our copays are the same as they are for "traditional" doctors.

I feel strongly that everyone should have the access that I do to naturopathic medicine. It's made a huge difference in my health.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa Blake
Portland

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Verne Lindner 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 suffer from several gastro-intestinal issues, and have since I was a child. During the decades of treatment I received at the hands of numerous MDs, never once did a doctor suggest that changing my diet might ameliorate my issues. Only when I began seeing NDs, was I asked about what I eat and how I live. NDs put me a diet that literally changed my life. From experience, I know that the MD approach was inadequate to heal me, and the ND approach was effective.

My ND works with me on overall wellness. She takes the time to understand all the factors in my life that contribute to good or ill health. I can count on my ND to know who I am, and know my health profile.

It's inexplicable to me that NDs are paid so little in comparison with MDs when, if I'm any example (and I bet I'm just one among many), treatment by an ND goes further to extend wellness into old age, saving costly care for bodies that haven't been systematically well cared for during their younger years.

I urge you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Verne Lindner
Multnomah County voter

February 7, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Wanda Sanseri and I have greatly benefitted for many years as a patient of Naturopathic Physicians. My birth family had many serious health issues, took massive prescription drugs, and spent a lot of time in the hospital. In their fifties they all became insulin dependent diabetics. They all developed cancer, high blood pressure, and had strokes. My dad retired on disability when he was in his fifties. They all spent a lot of time in the hospital.

In my early twenties I was hospitalized because I had an unbroken fever from Christmas to Easter. When the fever broke they sent me home and told me to be happy. This was a wake up call for me. I started searching then for a better path. That was my last hospital stay except when I delivered my four children. I will turn 73 this year.

I faced many of the challenges as my birth family. I became obese, had colon issues, and struggled with high blood pressure. Naturopaths have helped me naturally bring down my bp from 200/100 to normal. My blood sugar is normal. I eat healthier food and now weigh 130 pounds. I look younger than my age and I have energy and vitality. Because of health support from naturopaths I have had a more productive life. I have outlived by age my father and brother and will soon have outlived my mom. By my age she had already had several strokes.

Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. We need their valuable services.

Sincerely,

Wanda Sanseri

Name: Yana Dalcher

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Yana Dalcher 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Yana Dalcher

Name: Zachary Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Zachary Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Zachary Grubbe

Name: Spencer Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Spencer Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Spencer Grubbe

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Johanna Spalding 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 suffer from Chronic Pain and Fibromyalgia. I have had difficulties finding the right provider until I started seeing my ND.

Since I began seeing my ND at Natural Family Health Clinic, my pain levels have started decreasing. I have been able to return to full-time employment too. This is something I would not have dreamed possible prior to starting care at my ND. I appreciate working with an ND on my health because my ND treats me as a whole person rather than just a combination of symptoms.

General barriers to care that I see are when my choices are limited due to NDs not being able to bill my insurance plan. They don't bill, because they will not be paid a sustainable wage from some insurance companies. Another barrier that NDs have is the stereotypes that they are somehow "less than" other providers I have been treated by. Value of naturopathic care is drastically underrated in this country.

Patient choice in care is very important to me. I want to be able to choose who I see for my primary care and not be told who I have to see. I am glad that I am able to choose to see my ND for my care. I think it is one of the best decisions I have ever made.

From the first moment I stepped into my ND's clinic I was treated as a person. My ND listened to me, and actually heard what I was saying. My ND includes me in deciding my care, rather than telling me what to do as has been my experience in other provider's offices. My ND treats me as a person. My ND makes me feel hope about the future with my care. This is why I see an ND specifically.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? My ND has more training and experience than my previous MD. My ND deserves equal pay for equal work! NDs are paid a fraction of what my MD is paid. That is blatant discrimination.

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

Sincerely,

Johanna Spalding

Name: Ajit Nayak

Date: 02.05.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Ajit R. Nayak and I am a patient of Naturopathic Physician Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj in Portland, Oregon. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

- Dr Daivati Bharadvaj is a top-notch naturopathic physician who takes a very holistic and caring approach to healing patients from my firsthand experience.
- Naturopathic care what I appreciate the most, is non-invasive, has fewer side effects, is lasting and truly healing from the inside out. It is a mind-body-spirit approach to healing that really works in many cases better than care provided by MDs.
- The biggest and only barrier to Naturopathic care is the cost. Insurance carriers do not provide the same insurance coverage and most of the Naturopathic care has to be paid for out of pocket with no aid from health insurance companies.
- As a testimonial I can tell you my firsthand experience. Before seeing Dr Daivati Bharadvaj I went to several MDs for various ailments (general health and well-being) and they prescribed various medications without taking a holistic approach to my health which resulted in various other side effects. After many futile doctor visits and medications, I decided to try Naturopathic care under Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj and the first thing I noticed was how she took genuine interest in understanding and getting to the root of the problems and then taking a holistic approach to finding the solutions. Under her care I was able to start feeling healthy very quickly both mind and body and saw positive results in leaps and bounds. This positive experience has reaffirmed my belief in the value of holistic Naturopathic care and I believe it should be available to everyone in Oregon and be more affordable through health insurance coverage!

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

Sincerely,

Ajit R. Nayak

02.05.2019

Name: Alexandra Bougerie

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Alexandra Bougerie 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Bougerie

Name: Alexandra Volarich

Date: 2/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Alexandra Volarich 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.

Ever since my first gynecological exam, the annual trip to the doctor for a pap became a significantly dreaded and intense anxiety-provoking trepidation. The contact with the doctor was minimal, there was little to no conversation regarding the procedures, and my comfort level was something that was never addressed. I came to think of this as normal until I entered naturopathic medical school in Portland, OR. As I dove deeper into this medicine in a new state, two years passed until I realized I needed my well-women's visit. It was at this moment I realized I could find a naturopathic physician in this new state who specializes in woman's health and would better serve my needs.

My first visit with my new doctor was night and day compared to my past well-women's visits. The doctor moved slowly, methodically, and steadily throughout the entire exam. She explained not only what she was doing, but exactly what she was assessing. This was thrilling, as we had just completed our reproductive anatomy course, and everything was falling perfectly into place during her exam.

Additionally, she offered to let me see my cervix with a mirror once the speculum was in place! No one had ever offered this to me before, and I thought it was absolutely fantastic to see. This made me feel so empowered and grateful for my anatomy. It was such a beautiful experience. Further, I experienced the first TRUE clinical breast exam of my life. This is a vital examination tool that is dying from conventional women's healthcare.

My previous breast exams had lasted about 15 total seconds with only one level of light palpation. My naturopathic doctor explained to me the importance of using three different pressures and spanning the entire length of the breast to axilla. After this visit, I had a new admiration and appreciation for all that a doctor could do to make their patient feel at ease.

Further, this sublime visit with my naturopath sparked a huge interest to pursue women's health in my education. If this doctor made such a difference for me, I certainly can do the same thing for other women in the future. As a future naturopathic physician and a patient whose life was changed by one, it is of the utmost importance that this issue of fair pay to the utmost deserving of

professionals be addressed.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Ruth Volarich

Name: Amber Harper

Date: 01/28/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amber Harper 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. As a mother and a native Oregonian I value having options for my medical care in my state. I choose to raise my family with a holistic approach and have chosen to stay in our beautiful state of Oregon because of the reception I receive from other families I meet here with the same values.

I have tried taking my family to traditional MD's, but because of my medical choices, I have not felt supported by the doctors I have met. I do not take my role as the family decision maker on our health lightly. When our family visits our ND we are always made to feel at home. This is our right as paying clients to choose who our money goes to for medical care. We receive better care with our ND than any MD we have ever seen. Not only does our ND offer holistic care that can be in our best interest she also explains when an alternative route is not the best approach.

The pay should be equal across the board for any medical professional and it should be a family's choice to decide whom they see.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Harper and family

Name: Amber Hensley

Date: 2/11/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amber 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 started seeing a naturopath when I found out I was pregnant almost 7 years ago. I wanted to do what was best for the baby and myself. The care I received from my naturopath exceeded every expectation I had. My daughter and I still see a naturopath for all our primary care.

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

Sincerely,

Amber Hensley

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amrita Vatsal 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've had a great experience working With my naturopathic physician on allergies and nasal congestion with a plan of care that did not involve steroids. I'm way better educated on food and allergens than before and it is making a difference to my health.
- I also appreciate as a pregnant woman being able to seek alternative medical interventions for issues that do not involve drugs that are not healthy for my baby.
- My naturopath can see me on short notice and generally spends a lot of time with me compared to traditional providers.
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Amrita Vastal

Name: Angela Gutierrez

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Angela Gutierrez 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Angela Gutierrez

Name: Aria Leighty

Date: 2/3/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Aria Leighty 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.

- My husband was treated for his high blood pressure. After six stays in the hospital, countless medications, and trying so many things...the naturopath found the perfect solution to save his life.
- I appreciate that my naturopath takes the time to listen to me and find a solution. I'm treated like a person not a number.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am confused why when they give the same amount of time, if not more to patients. I have had a better experience with my ND than any other medical professional I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Aria Leighty

Name: Arvina Mulia

Date: February 6, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Arvina Mulia 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.

In 2017, I was having problem with digestive issues; every time I ate, my stomach always got bloated. When I talked to my PCP, a general MD physician, I was only recommended to just eat low FOD MAP food, but I did not get any relief from my digestive issues. Only after seeing Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, a naturopathic physician, I found out that I have SIBO. After the some medication, supplement and diet recommended by Dr. Daivati, my digestive symptoms have totally been gone and my SIBO is now under control. I also appreciate the fact that Dr. Daivati is flexible, always takes into her consideration of my overall situation and lifestyle when recommending treatments.

I believe that working with a naturopathic physician, especially one that is genuinely caring and skillful like Dr. Daivati is a blessing. Dr D truly took her time to listen and analyze my health issues in a more holistic and caring way compared to general doctor that I have seen. Although the PCP that I had been seeing was also caring in her way, she did not analyze my health issue as comprehensive and holistically as Dr. Daivati and the amount of appointment time seemed at times made me feel rushed as if I was taking too much of the PCP time for her next appointment.

Dr Daivati also helped me to be able to do my yearly wellness check up, when my PCP is out of the country, as she is trained just like regular doctor and yet, when it comes to insurance co-pay, since year 2018 with Moda Health, I have to pay a co-pay of \$70, every time I see Dr. Daivati as she is categorized as a specialist, not a general practitioner.

This high co-pay fee for visiting a naturopathic physician can become a barrier to anyone, including myself, if I find myself in a tight financial situation. And yet, I will always want to visit a naturopath physician like Dr. Daivati because I trust her that she can give me a comprehensive and caring analysis of my health issues especially regarding my digestive issues, which I am prone to have.

I do not understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to general medical providers I have seen, especially since naturopath physician like Dr Daivati, has given me a more medical care service than any regular physician ever did for me. I would like to see that naturopathic physician to be compensated fairly as they offer the same kind and even more comprehensive medical care service than regular general practitioners do.

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

Sincerely,
(Arvina Mulia)

Name: Aubrie De Clerck

Date: February 3, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Aubrie De Clerck and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I believe that this profession is incredibly important to the residents of Oregon, and also to the health of our state.

The quality of healthcare I receive from my ND far exceeds any experience I have had with any other kind of physician. My ND is committed to and has the mindset and tools at her disposal to find the root cause underneath my symptoms in a way that works best with my body. This means longer term positive and lasting outcomes for me - less repeat visits and improved health overall. I also feel more educated and empowered in regards to my health.

Given my experience, it is puzzling to me why NDs are paid less than western doctors. While things are getting better in terms of insurance covering NDs and Oregon is on the leading edge of supporting all kinds of health care options that increase positive outcomes, the issue of parity makes it difficult for NDs to continue practicing and providing the type of care that is so life changing for many of us.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Feel free to contact me if you would like to know more about my experiences.

Sincerely,

Aubrie De Clerck

Name: Audra Bates

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Audra Bates and my son is a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share our experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Our son has suffered from asthma since 13 months old & diagnosed “severe asthmatic” at 20 months. After 2 years of being unable to control attacks, the pediatrician recommended an allergist, so we made an appointment.

After the testing, the physician rushed through the results and advised we begin 5 daily medications immediately and regular allergy shots in the next few months. He used medical terminology and we had to repeatedly ask for a clear explanation. We voiced concern for a 4 year old on 5 medications AND allergy shots. He dismissed our concerns and left. We felt frustrated, unheard, and uncertain how to help our child.

We then scheduled an appointment with a Naturopath. The physician performed the exam, reviewed the results/suggestions from the allergist, and listened to us detail our sons health concerns. She determined he should be on 2 of the medications. In order to avoid the remaining 3 medications she suggested; environmental, diet, and household changes. We began the new protocol of 2 medications, along with the other changes and waited (while she monitored him)...

It’s been almost a year and we have been able to avoid 3 additional medications and allergy shots! We have seen improvement in his overall health and significantly minimized the frequency of his asthma attacks.

What our ND provided that we didn’t find anywhere else – thorough examinations, listened to our concerns, educated us, provided alternative to prescriptions (when possible), gained our trust, allowed us to work as a team in providing the best care for our son.

This is why we need NDs. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Audra Bates (and family)

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Brigitte Barkagan Eldin 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 have had more success with my health conditions by seeing a Naturopathic doctor than I have had with years of seeing a Medical Doctor. I am able to get to the root of my issues with my ND, instead of treating only the symptoms, which is a game changer when dealing with chronic pain.

I appreciate having the choice of which kind of doctor I am able to see. The guidance and care I've received from my ND is invaluable and I don't know where I'd be today without it. From what I have learned, ND's are paid significantly less than MD's and I don't see that as fair, seeing that an ND is able to prescribe me pharmaceutical medication and give me check-ups in the same manner as an MD can.

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

Sincerely,

Brigitte Barkagan Eldin

Name: Caitlin Miyashiro

Date: 2/13/19

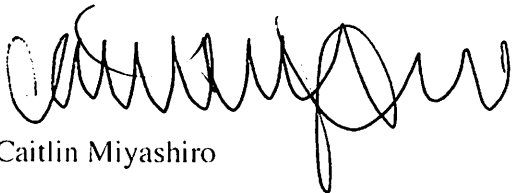
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Caitlin Miyashiro and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I use my Naturopathic Physician as my primary care provider and appreciate her ability to use conventional medical treatments along side naturopathic treatment plans.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitlin Miyashiro', with a stylized, cursive script.

Caitlin Miyashiro

Name: Cameron Montrose

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Cameron Montrose 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Cameron Montrose

Name: Celia Ferrer

Date: 2/9/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Celia Ferrer 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.

When I was unemployed, I received free care from a naturopathic doctor who acted as my family doctor, to manage what could have been a really serious medical condition.

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

Sincerely,

Celia Ferrer

Date: Feb 12, 2019

Subject: Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity SB 734

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Cheryl Dorman from Portland, and for several years I have received treatment from Naturopathic Physicians. My experiences have been extremely positive and I continue to receive very good care. I have also used Medical Doctors and continue to use them, also with good results. I recently discovered that ND's are paid by insurance companies only a fraction, half or less of what MD's are paid for the exact same kinds of visits. I was shocked and dismayed to learn that, and cannot understand why that is the case.

It is my understanding that Nurse Practitioners had similar inequities from insurance companies until the legislature passed a law requiring they be paid at market rates. It is time to do the same for Naturopathic Doctors.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Dorman

Name: Chris Boerste

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Chris Boerste 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Chris Boerste

Name: Christen Prudence

Date: 1/29/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Christen Prudence 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 appreciate that I am seen as a whole person instead of a set of symptoms to treat by my ND.

This has been invaluable in my treatment of Adrenal Fatigue, Postpartum Depression/Anxiety, and autoimmune disease prevention. My time spent with my ND not only goes over my physical symptoms, but also emotional well-being, diet, sleep patterns, and exercise. It never feels rushed, and she answers any and all questions I have in a relatable manner. Human bodies are complex and I don't believe there is a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, it is important that we have a choice in who we partner with in regards to wellbeing.

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

Sincerely,

Christen Prudence

Name: Christy Carothers

Date: 2/9/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Christy Carothers 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.

My doctor spends more time with me than any other doctor ever has. She asks more questions and seems to really care about what I have to say. She counsels me thoroughly on treatment options and always seems to know exactly what little (or sometimes big) changes I can make to help me feel better. She even reminds me about my PAPs and mammograms!

It seems very odd to me that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Christy Carothers

Name: CJ Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is CJ Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

CJ Sanders

Name: Colleen Bolster

Date: 2/6/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Colleen Bolster 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.

My Naturopathic Doctor was able to help me in so many ways. I had been to so many different doctors, and none could help. So many specialists, so many years of suffering.

But after working with a Naturopathic Doctor, I was able to correct my chronic medical issues. I am no longer being shuttled around the conventional system, racking up medical costs with no improvement and no end in sight.

I am a happy patient of a Naturopathic Doctor, and I was so disheartened (enraged really) at learned about the disastrous pay disadvantage my Naturopathic Doctor has endured.

I am very fortunate to have healthcare insurance, and have been using that to see my Naturopathic Doctor.

Then when I learned that basically all those other providers, who never helped me, for years, were paid so much more than the one provider who actually did me any good... well... I just have no words.

Explain to me the rationale of this. I cannot find one. I am guessing you cannot also.

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

Colleen Bolster

Name: Courtney Crane

Date: 1/26/18

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Courtney Crane 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 chose to work with a Naturopathic Physician because, in my experience, Naturopathic Physicians are far more likely to honor my personal, social and cultural views and practices of health while maintaining the high quality standard of care expected of all Oregon Primary Care physicians.

I have birthed two children in Oregon, my first to an allopathically trained obstetrical practitioner and my second to a Naturopathic Physician. In my second pregnancy I was more thoroughly screened and assessed at every appointment and for postpartum depression. It also became clear from such high level of care during with my second child that I likely had significant postpartum depression that was never caught or addressed for my first pregnancy by my allopathic provider. I also received more treatment including the standard treatment of care and more referrals to specialists for concerning issues with my ND Physician than I did with my previous pregnancy.

Given that ND Physicians provide better and more thorough basic primary care as well as offer additional referrals and herbal or vitamin supports such as I have experienced, it seems quite silly to pay them less than other primary care providers. I hope that this is corrected because NDs are an asset to healthcare in Oregon and ask that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Courtney Crane
Hillsboro, Oregon

--

"I know there is strength in the differences between us.
I know there is comfort where we overlap."

~Ani DiFranco

Name: COURTNEY DAYAO

Date: 2.12.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Courtney Dayao 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.

Before I started seeing a naturopath, I felt that conventional doctors were ignoring my health issues and simply offering me a pill to cure me rather than addressing root causes. My final straw was when a doctor in Oregon wanted to prescribe me anti depressants when I told her I felt tired all the time. She never took my blood test and did not ask any other questions but jumped at the idea of an anti depressant. This not only worried me but made me incredibly frustrated and I did not pick up the prescription. I decided then that I wanted the option to see a naturopath and over the last year, my health and well being has changed for the better. I learned about natural supplements, took the advice to work on my sleep habits, exercise more, and even learned about better food choices to get enough nutrition since I am vegetarian. I am healthier and more energetic than I have ever been and my mental health is much better all due to my seeing a naturopath. I have had too many negative experiences with conventional doctors and find great value in naturopathic care. My naturopath, Dr. Daivati, has been so warm and caring in all of our interactions and I never once experienced that with any conventional doctor. I have become very passionate about naturopathic care and strongly believe that we should all have a choice when it comes to our health care options.

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

Sincerely,

Courtney Dayao

Name: Daman Oberoi

Date: February 9, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Daman Oberoi, 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.

For years I dealt with issues related to an irritable bowel, and my MD's response was to take a prescription pill every day for the rest of my life. I was only 25 years old when the MD gave me that solution. I didn't like the idea of taking a pill for the next 50+ years to deal with this issue. As soon as I started seeing an ND, she took the time to evaluate my whole health and run tests to identify the specific source of the problem. I didn't take any prescriptions to address the issue. Instead, we were able to address the problem with supplements and diet. That experience with an ND changed my life and forever linked me to an ND's care.

I can list several other instances where an ND's care has been much better for my health, but I'll mention just one more specifically. Over the last several years, my blood pressure has been on the high side. An MD's response would be to take a pill to control it. My ND worked with me to not only lower my blood pressure, but also improve countless other indicators, such as Vitamin D levels, cholesterol, triglycerides, and more. I'm now 37 years old and healthier than I have ever been, in huge part due to my ND.

Naturopaths make a huge difference in people's lives. In the long run, they will reduce health care costs because they address root causes, rather than prescribing pills to band-aid everything. They attend medical school for four years, and many complete intensive residencies. For all these reasons, they deserve parity in pay.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daman Oberoi
503-358-2750

Name: Dan Pettingill

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dan Pettingill 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Dan Pettingill

Name: Daniel Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Daniel Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Keliheleua

Name: Danielle Trapp

Date: 2/12/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Danielle Trapp and I have been a patient of a few Naturopathic Physicians through the years. I would like to share my experience working with ND's to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

There are many conditions and ailments being 'treated' in the medical community solely on symptoms alone. Those symptoms are masked while underlying issues still remain present. These long term medications often come at other risks and side effects in addition to not always fully treating the problem.

Naturopathic Physicians often can diagnose and treat the patient not the condition; thus meaning you are looked at as a person rather than a series of bullet points. This leads to fewer visits overall, fewer long term prescriptions, and less trial and error. All this is less money insurance has to pay as well as patient out of pockets.

I see an ND for my gut health. I use the term gut health as an all encompassing phrase because many, many issues can be attributed to it and it's not once been something discussed with me by an MD outside of a gastroenterologist (who, by the way, still doesn't treat the gut health as an issue). Locating the root of problems, in my case chronic inflammation in my body, I, like many out there can achieve some more realistic and feasible results as a whole.

Naturopathic Physicians are far too underpaid for their knowledge of the body and the compassion they bring. They are not motivated by drug reps or outside influences. They recommend and prescribe because they feel strongly not because of extra perks to benefit them. Because many were in practice well before complimentary medicine was even an option for insurance companies, they sure as heck didn't get into the field for the income; they did it to truly help people and make a difference.

They 100% deserve to be paid the same as someone who can claim to heal and not always come through. They live the Hippocratic Oath every day and then some. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Danielle Trapp

Name: Dave Ehrlichman, Dhyana Ehrlichman and Tara Ehrlichman (Family)

Date: 02/01/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dave Ehrlichman 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 have had exceptionally positive experiences working with naturopathic physicians and really value their Holistic and Integrated approach to health care on a level far exceeding any allopathic care I've ever had.
- Due to my overall confidence and satisfaction with Naturopathic care for my entire family, we have enlisted Naturopathic physicians as our primary care providers and rely on them 100%.
- The immense value of naturopathic care lies in its holistic and integrated approach to the whole person. Having substantial training in allopathic and natural medicine approaches including Traditional Chinese Medicine and other natural healing arts, I feel the value of Naturopathic care is an invaluable aspect of wellness and can bring tremendous value to our overall, national healthcare system.
- Patient choice is of course a huge value in a democratic healthcare system, especially since many no longer trust the Big Pharma model of for profit disease palliation and the over sized lobby influence of our political process, insurance coverage's and cost of healthcare.
- General barriers to care include lack of equal Insurance coverage for most insurance plans, which is not helpful to a robust healthcare system.
- I see an ND specifically for their vastly superior care and broader holistic perspective in which they take the body, mind and spirit as a whole person, instead of just the sum of parts.
- Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I feel this is due to systemic establishment bias and is fundamentally unfair to both these tremendously qualified health care providers and to the patients who rely on them.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Lets get some fairness and common sense into our healthcare and Insurance systems so we can bring holistic, Integrative healthcare to all who choose it.

Sincerely,

Dave, Dhyana and Tara Ehrlichman
Also on behalf of my parents Bruce and Inez Canvasser

Name: David Rodrigues

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is David Rodrigues 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

David Rodrigues

Name: Deborah McKinley

Date:2.5.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Deborah McKinley 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.

- Positive experiences working with my naturopathic physician---she is someone who takes the time to listen to what my problems are and instead of just treating the symptoms, she works hard to get to the root of the problem and really figure out what isn't working.
- I value the benefits I have in choosing my healthcare; knowing that my insurance covers what my Naturopath helps me with as well as what my other MD's help me with.
- I truly believe that my OPTIMAL health is a combination of western medicine my MD provides in combination with my naturopathic care
- Although I have a trusted group of MD's that I work with, I specifically see my ND who has greatly helped me with my seasonal allergies and inability to sleep through the night. Priceless!
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Deborah McKinley

Name: Donald G. Nutting

Date: February 11.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Donald G. Nutting 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.

My experience with my ND has been extremely helpful with my overall health and well-being.

Working with an ND is very rewarding in regard to my physical issues in life and the way that they are approached.

My personal health issues have been looked at by multiple MD's for years and 10's of thousands of dollars while my ND was able to get my health back to a normal physical scenario in a year.

With an ND you can have a conversation about health and come up with alternatives that work for you.

This is why I see an ND specifically

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,
Donald G. Nutting
Retired Area line manager
Portland General Electric

Name: Donna M Snow Pierson
Date: February 11, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Donna Snow Pierson 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 have had excellent health results with an ND. My blood pressure has been lowered, my cholesterol is low enough I am not in no longer a candidate for meds, my blood tests have improved. I have learned how to control many of my health symptoms with diet and exercise. I appreciate how my ND looks at me as a whole person rather than a list of symptoms to relieve. I really appreciate the conservative nature in regards to pharmaceuticals, especially since I have had a history of adverse reactions and effects from them in the past. Until recently, I have not been able to see an ND as it was not covered by my plan. Now that it is covered, it doesn't fully cover my appointments.

I feel that it is important for patients to be more in control of their health care, however, so many of us are at the mercy of the healthcare system that doesn't consider NDs as qualified healthcare providers. It doesn't seem fair for people to be treated by primary care physicians with very little experience in alternative health care that aids the body in healing rather than simply covering up the symptoms hoping the patient gets better. Patients deserve the choice.

At this point, I don't understand why NDs are not paid at the same rate as other providers. This does not seem fair.

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

Sincerely,

Donna M. Snow Pierson

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth Adair 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 see an NP because I appreciate the holistic approach that she takes to my care. She takes the time to understand me, my lifestyle and overall health. She offers a range of solutions to issues, including changes in diet and behavior, acupuncture, nutritional supplements, and more prescription drugs as needed. The broader, more balanced approach to my health has proven to be very effective in keeping me a healthy and happy person, and minimized the need for prescriptions and expensive medications.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Adair

Name: Elizabeth Larsen

Date: February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth 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.

My naturopath, Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, has given me more support in my quest for good health and wellness than any other medical provider I have. I initially went to see her when I had a troubling health condition that my primary care physician dismissed and prescribed a general medication for that I was uncomfortable taking. Dr. Bharadvaj took the time to listen regarding all my symptoms and she asked me pertinent questions that my primary care physician did not. She also had some ideas and ordered additional testing, all of which led me to find an answer and healing. I recognize the importance of my primary care physician, and still see her regularly. But Dr. Bharadvaj is just as important, if not more so.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Larsen

Name: Elizabeth Russell

February 6, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees, My name is Elizabeth Russell 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. My naturopath physician takes the time to spend with both me and my children fully learning both my individual medical history and my family medical history. When my four-year-old son kept getting migraines she spent the time going over my family history to see the relationship between my headaches and his migraines. She also helped us find a treatment that actually worked and he was able to not go on a regular medication that could make him feel sedated.

Currently our primary care doctors are very overworked and can barely spend time with patients. I found I prefer naturopathic coverage because they take the time to spend 45 minutes talking with me about my medical issues and what else is going on in my life. However I have to fight to get my insurance to pay for it and they pay my naturopath half what they pay an MD to see me.

I wish naturopathic providers would be paid equally to MD's or at least at a higher rate because we need these doctors who spend time with individuals and treat them like human beings.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Russell

Rivergrove, Oregon

Name: Elizabeth Singh

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Elizabeth Singh 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Singh

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill
February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emily Gocobachi Doumerc 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.

- From the ages of 12-25 I experienced chronic pain in my gut, often on a pain level 5-7 that made work, school and engaging with my friends and family difficult. I saw multiple MD's and specialist trying to find a resolution. It wasn't until I saw an ND at the age of 25 that we were able to determine the root cause of the pain and find a permanent solution. I am forever grateful for the holistic and comprehensive care that I received. It was wonderful to be seen as a WHOLE person, not just a symptom and to have a permanent and lasting solution.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Gocobachi Doumerc

February 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Erin Allcutt 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 started seeing my ND upon the referral from my OBGYN after the birth of my second child. While I was experiencing many physical and emotional ailments common to new moms, my actual OBGYN recognized the value of care provided by an ND and strongly recommended that I make an appointment even if I didn't really know what to expect.

I was fairly skeptical at first, but even with my first visit, I instantly valued the experience. This doctor spent a full hour with me. She was seeking to understand all that I had been through and helped me see what was still to come. She set up a plan to get my health back in a truly holistic manner. She has helped me address everything from post-partum troubles nearly five years ago to troubling markers in my bloodwork through a comprehensive view into my diet, how I move my body, what stressors I have in my life and at times, prescription and OTC medications.

Seeing my ND is something I prioritize into my hectic calendar. I'm a busy working mom who often has very little time for herself. One key way I take care of myself is to ensure to set and keep my appointments to check in with this important health provider no matter what.

I'm troubled to learn that Naturopathic Physicians are paid so little compared to other providers I have seen. This makes no sense to me. My ND is able to diagnose the same problems, prescribe the same prescription medications, yet does so with a truly holistic view of my total health in mind. And, she spends more time with me to really check in on my progress and opportunities than any other doctor I've seen in my life.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. My ND has proven over and over again that she is there for me. This is one way that I want to make sure that I'm there for her. I cannot imagine not having her partnership in decisions concerning my health and I want to make sure I can continue to count on her being there for years to come.

I'd love to hear back from you to ensure you have heard my message. I welcome any questions and/or dialogue.

Sincerely,

Erin Allcutt

x

Erin Allcutt

Senior Director, Inventory Excellence – RFID
Connected Product

M +1/512.289.1865 // D +1/503.532.2529

Gail Anderson
6625 W Burnside Street
Portland, OR 97210
February 10, 2019

RE: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Gail Anderson and I am a patient of several Naturopathic Physicians. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I moved to Oregon from Florida because of the access to Naturopathic Physician. I began traveling to Oregon for healthcare several years ago after finding I had many more options in Oregon including Naturopath Doctor's or "ND's." The ND's that treated my family members and/or me in Oregon have been among the finest medical doctors that I have encountered during a full career that took me around the globe and exposed me to myriad healthcare systems and practices. Perhaps the biggest draw for me to the ND option is that the ND's are trained to address the root of the problem as opposed to treating just symptoms. I also appreciate the fact that my ND's have been exposed to other healthcare practices including Chinese medicine and acupuncture.

I have been treated successfully for various ailments including PTSD, Major Depression, hair loss, anxiety and routine healthcare screenings. My care is frequently coordinated with outside facilities or with MD's from other practices depending on who the ND might work with. I like the fact that I was able to reduce my reliance on prescription drugs considerably.

Since you are in a position to advocate for your constituents on an important topic, I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Gail E. Anderson

Gail E. Anderson

From: Glen Fielding
Date: February 7, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

My name is Glen Fielding, and I am a patient of Dr. Daivati Bharadvaj, a naturopathic physician in Portland. I would like to highlight several ways in which the naturopathic care I have received over the past five years is an essential and distinctive foundation to my health and wellness.

First, naturopathic care centers on me as a whole person. Rather than seeing particular issues, such as sleep or blood pressure problems, as isolated symptoms calling for isolated prescriptions, a naturopath views problems in a full-person context, taking into account an individual's relationship to his or her mind, body, and heart, to other people, to changing situations, and to the broader social and natural environment. Naturopathy is patient-centered in the fullest and most comprehensive way I've ever experienced.

Second, naturopathy draws on and links to the best in medical science, rather than remaining separate from it, and constructively integrates this science with complementary healing and wisdom traditions. For example, it was my naturopath who suspected I had sleep apnea, a condition that we typically view as part of an MD and not an ND's tradition of care. But naturopaths get to know their patients remarkably well, and, on their behalf, reach out and pull in theory, research, and best practices from a range of health-care paradigms; they are not territorial or restricted to a "fringe" or "alternative" way of helping people. In my case, my naturopath referred me to a sleep medicine center, where I worked with an MD, who prescribed a CPAP machine. And it was my naturopath who helped me most to build on the contributions of the CPAP and develop the kind of mindful self-regulation that has enabled me to create and maintain overall good sleep patterns. Naturopaths are not off to the side of MDs; they are in the center of health-building care.

Third, naturopathy fosters a much more healing and health-flourishing relationship between patient and doctor than the care MDs are able to provide. I see my naturopath for an hour each visit. She knows me well. She so clearly and effectively cares about my health and wellness and facilitates in sensitive ways my own health-related decision-making. I have great respect for MDs and have and will benefit from their care, but MDs do not work in systems that allow them to develop full-person, whole-health relationships with patients. Naturopathy is all about such relationships.

In light of my experience with naturopathic care, I would argue that NDs should be paid at comparable rates to MDs and that insurance companies should cover naturopathic services in the same way they cover MD services.

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

Sincerely,
Glen Fielding
10220 NW Alder Grove Lane
Portland, Oregon 97229

Name: Greg Dalcher

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Greg Dalcher 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Greg Dalcher

Name: Greg Long

Date: 2.1.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Greg Long 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 have had nothing but positive experiences working with my naturopathic physician.

I appreciate the whole body/lifestyle approach to medicine that starts with health care for long term health and not a quick prescription without knowing the whole story.

My physician is looking for root causes of health problems so she can get me on the road to optimal health and not just administer a Band-Aid.

I feel I get superior care with an ND over an MD for my general health needs so why would my Doctor get paid less?

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Greg S. Long

41 SW Bancroft St

Portland OR 97239

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

I strongly support this pay parity bill - parity, not disparity! My daughter is currently a doctoral candidate in Naturopathic medicine at NUNM and it's very important that when she enters her field as a care provider that her pay is fair and that there are incentives for these students to stay in this program. Their training is extensive and science based.

Oregonians deserve these choices in care and ND's are uniquely qualified to provide this specific care. We want more choices and value the skills that ND's have been trained for. Let's not under-utilize what their training brings to the health care field.

I am also a Registered Nurse and have seen clients that seek alternatives to the standard medical model and are motivated to be active in their own care.

Let's support all clients and providers! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Greta Horn
535 NW Bonnie Ct.

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Gwen Montoya and my children are patients 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.

Our ND is the first doctor my kids have ever interacted with that makes them feel heard (literally - her appointments are sixty minutes - when was the last time you spent 60 minutes with a health professional completely focused on your overall health and well being?)

I love that our ND focuses beyond medications and looks at the whole health of my children. She asks how they are doing and listens.

I believe in her care so much, I was prepared to pay cash if my insurance didn't cover her (as a single mom of two, I didn't know HOW I would make it work, but I was going to).

Happily, she is covered by my insurance, but sadly she is paid less than an MD, despite her care being exceptional and miles better than any doctor I have ever seen for my kids or for myself.

I also see the way she is looked down on by MDs (one of my kids is dealing with a mystery health issue, and our ND is coordinating care between my kid and several specialists - which means we've seen more than five different doctors with different specialties in the last six months).

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

Sincerely,

Gwen Montoya
Marketing Strategist

Name: Heidi Zimmerman

Date: 2/5/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Heidi Zimmerman 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 have had much more in depth care, empathy and success in improving my health through naturopathic care than other forms of medicine
- I appreciate that working with an ND means not only avoiding disease, but helping me to achieve optimal health
- Naturopathic care is an invaluable resource to have for those who want to create balance in their lives outside of the use of pharmaceuticals. I want to be able to choose my care from medical practitioners that I feel are the best fit for me.
- I want to be able to have patient choice in who I want to help me with my health journey.
- Without insurance benefits to naturopathic care, I have experienced numerous barriers in my care. I have had to say no to my health many times because of not being able to afford the care I needed. If pay parity existed, I wouldn't have to choose between my health and exceeding my budget.
- I need ND care specifically because I want to be able to care for my body and create health without the use of pills and expensive prescriptions. ND care can help me achieve that.

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

Sincerely,

Heidi Zimmerman

Name: Heminder Singh

Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Heminder Singh 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 have lived in Oregon for more than 30 years, and during that time my family and I have had seen and received care from both Medical and Naturopathic Physicians. I have found Naturopathic Physicians to be competent, knowledgeable and caring professionals who have provided excellent health care for my family and myself. I strongly believe that traditional medicine and naturopathic medicine complement each other, and I appreciate the fact that in Oregon, unlike many other states, I can choose my physician and the kind of care I want for each situation.

Naturopathic physicians deserve to be paid fairly, and I urge you to vote yes on the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Heminder Singh

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Isabelle Lishewski 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 have lived in four different states and have had my share stresses and troubles of finding a naturopathic doctor. Here in Oregon I am so thankful to have found Dr. Bharadvaj and above all really connect with a Doctor I feel comfortable with and who has positively impacted all aspects of my health. In past experiences with regular MDs, my mental, spiritual and emotional health has not been addressed. However with a Naturopath, I feel I am getting holistic treatment and am working to fix the root causes, not just masking symptoms.

I have family members living in Ohio who have never even heard of Naturopathic medicine. I fear for what their MDs are prescribing them or their lack of knowledge about parts of their health they have no idea matter. I cannot stress enough how grateful I am to have access to a Naturopathic Doctor, and especially one that is accessible through my insurance.

I have to say it was not easy finding Dr. Bharadvaj. My insurance made it very challenging to even find naturopathic care in my network. And it wasn't until I did research for my family members back in Ohio that I realized some states don't even have Naturopathic medicine as an option! So despite my troubles searching for a Naturopath, I can't imagine not even having it as an option simply based on where I live.

I see a Naturopath because I believe health is holistic. I love talking through all aspects of life with my naturopath because every part truly affects one's health! We need more Doctors like Dr. Bharadvaj that genuinely care about their patients and take the time to explain ideas, treatments and what's going on in your body as opposed to just simply prescribing a pill!

All in all I want you to know how valuable having affordable access to a Naturopathic doctor is and I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Lishewski

Name: Jackson Grubbe

Date: 2/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Jackson Grubbe and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician, Dr. Tyler Keliheleua. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Dr. K helps me in ways that other doctors don't. He looks for preventative measures and treats me as a comprehensive whole, as opposed to a vessel of isolated problems, each of which can be treated with a different pill.

To make a long story short, I have been extremely sick a few different times, and going to Dr. K for IVs has helped each time. His (and other NDs') service is valuable and should be valued the same as the work of other medical professionals.

I know I am just one voice, but I hope that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Jackson Grubbe

Name: James Dailey

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is James Dailey 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

James Dailey

Name: Janette Heil

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Janette Heil 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Janette Heil

February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

I saw an N.D. roughly eight years ago in Anchorage about a vitamin D deficiency. In reviewing two blood tests he noticed acceleration in my PSA levels and referred me to a urologist who discovered I had prostate cancer. We acted on this discovery quickly and were able to eradicate the cancer seven years ago. I thank Adam Grove N. D. for his quick observation of this problem. He and other N.D's should be fairly compensated for their efforts.

Please vote yes on SB 734.

Jeff Bowden

Name: Jenn Spirgen

Date: 2/12

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jenn Spirgen, 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've been a patient a 5+ NDs and have had nothing but positive experiences. First, I do believe in evidence-based care but do support my health and wellness needs at times with a naturopathic approach. I like having the option, and knowing that I can get this kind of care from a professional that understands both has been the best kind of care I can receive thus far. Their professionalism, knowledge has been not only to par with my interactions with FNPs and PAs, but in some cases, have far exceeded my care plan expectations.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I don't understand why they would be paid differently, when they actually not only have the ability to practice similarly to their counterparts, but also have a more expanded approach to care when needed. Why are we not aligned with what the current demand is? I feel like this parity is far behind where society is at and needs to catch up and make the necessary changes.

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

Sincerely,

Jenn Spirgen

District Manager, PDX - East

503-930-9740 (m)

ZOOM+care®

Name: Jennifer Bland

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jennifer Bland 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bland

Name: Jenny Isailovski

Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

My name is Jenny and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician here in Oregon. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in our state.

My family and I chose to see a naturopath because we wanted medical care that focused on us as a whole person, not just a symptom to cure temporarily. I've had so much more clarity in my overall health and well being since working with a naturopath. My ND is so thorough and appointments are much longer and more in depth than any general practitioner I've seen in the past. A few of my friends have had a lot of success balancing their hormones because when they switched over to a ND as well.

I love that I have the choice of which doctor I want to see and I think they need to be paid just like any other doctor out there.

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

Sincerely,

Jenny

--

Jenny Isailovski

Name: Jill Murphy Long

Date: 2/4/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Jill Murphy Long 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 have always had a positive experience with my naturopathic physicians. They take the time to understand what you're going through - unlike the MDs that see you for 5 minutes and charge outrageous fees.

My family and I have always gone to a naturopathic doctor; we understand and recognize the value of seeing such a professional to help us maintain our well-being of good health. I believe more education is needed so that the general public understands what a naturopathic doctor does and can provide.

They need to understand the amount of schooling that's required to become an ND and until they realize the number of years and classes, precepts and residency that are required of NDs, they won't know of this valuable professional resource available to help them on the preventive side of medicine and including sick care services, too.

We need more NDs and they need to be paid a livable wage, a fair wage, a wage that is on par with what MDs are paid.

But we know who owns the healthcare industry. It's the insurance companies and the pharmaceutical companies and if they can't make money, then they're not going to endorse or support NDs under their policies.

We need a major healthcare shift. It is not fair to these doctors; it is not fair to the patients, either.

Surgery and pharmaceuticals are not the answer for every day.

Naturopathic medicine is.

We are a sick nation.

America is not healthy.

NDs are the way back to good health.

The insurance companies need to get behind NDs because in the long run, it is going to be cheaper for them.

Lastly, why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen - despite the medical training they receive?

There are 100,000 naturopathic doctors practicing in more than 30 countries.
<http://worldnaturopathicfederation.org/about-naturopathy/>

I am asking that you vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill for our NDs to be recognized and valued for what they offer to Americans and for this to be recognized with their pay.

Sincerely,
Jill Murphy Long
Portland, Oregon

Joanna Gustafson
February 10, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Joanna Gustafson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share with you my experience working with an NP to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon. I suffer from a number of conditions that have been difficult for my traditional doctors to diagnose. These include CRPS (complex regional pain syndrome), adrenal fatigue, sleep issues, weakened immune system, yeast overgrowth, chronic edema and fatty liver issues. My "traditional" MD/specialists have each focused on treating my individual symptoms, and only within their area of specialization, with little success. They have not looked at me as a "whole person"; how different systems of my body might be causing issues in other areas of my body.

In my appointments with NPs, they have taken a more holistic approach to diagnosing my conditions. They have used more comprehensive approaches in treating me as a "whole person", and not just my individual symptoms. These non-traditional modes of care have included dietary modifications, herbal tinctures/medicines, massage and cranio-sacral therapies, and acupuncture. I have experienced more relief from the more comprehensive approach of my NP's than I have from traditional MD specialists, who treat only one symptom at a time. I feel I get more complete care from my NP, and I also believe that their approach provides pain and wellness modalities to alleviate or decrease the intensity of future complications, that could lead to more serious health issues; ones that might remain undetected by a traditional MD/Specialist. Avoiding these future complications saves suffering and money for me, and reduces the strain on our already over-burdened health care system.

Just as the Pay Equity Law was enacted to ensure equal pay for groups of workers in Oregon, there should be legislative remedy to ensure that Naturopathic Physicians are paid the equivalent of MDs with whom they share the same level of education and training. It is wrong for them to be treated as second-class medical providers, and paid at a reduced rate for their services. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Gustafson

Name: Jody McComas

Date: Jan. 30, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jody McComas 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 spent 15 years working with traditional medicine doctors for major health concerns. It wasn't until I found an incredible Naturopathic physician that I felt like I began to get the care that I needed and saw results move in a positive direction. She takes the time with me at each visit (an hour!) unlike the 15 that you so often get in other offices. They look at your health from all angles and help you find the best way forward to help you find real results. I now spend way less time sick, going to doctors because my naturopathic doctor helped me find root issues and get to true healing instead of putting bandaids on things or throwing another medication at it. My choice will always be to see a naturopathic doctor first. I can't imagine why they are paid so much less than other doctors.

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

Sincerely,

Jody McComas

Name: John David

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is John David 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

John David

Name: Joshua Rodrigues

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joshua Rodrigues 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Rodrigues

Name: Joshua Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joshua Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joshua Keliheleua

Name: Joyce Keliheleua

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Joyce Keliheleua 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Joyce Keliheleua

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie and I had my first experience as a patient of an Naturopathic Physician last summer. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I met with this new doctor (Dr Alicia Hart) and our appointment was over an hour together! She was relaxed and looked over my previous medical history and took the time to explain everything in easy to understand terms, and state what things I could do to be healthier. I felt understood and valued, and not rushed--which is super rare in the medical world!

I'm really sad that my ND doesn't get paid enough for the value of her work. She is a huge asset to the community and truly truly cares about her patients and everyone in general. Please help her get paid adequately for her work!

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

Sincerely,
Julie Jacob
Portland, Oregon

Name:

Date:

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie Meeker 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. After becoming frustrated with my primary MD who did not seem to be listening to my concerns and getting to the root of my symptoms, I switched to a naturopath.

My naturopath approaches my symptoms in an investigative manner, listening to my concerns and asking me questions to clarify she understands me clearly. She has managed my condition with competence and has improved my quality of life. I feel heard, cared for, and empowered to make wise choices for my health with her guidance.

Given the time she takes to provide care for me and her other patients, I would like to understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen, especially given the answers to care I have found through her when I met dead ends with my MD. The naturopathic approach to holistically treating a condition is an important and effective method to health management.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Meeker

Name: Justin Tiret

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Justin Tiret 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Justin Tiret

Name: Kaden Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kaden Arnold

Name: Kari Shirtz

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kari Shirtz 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kari Shirtz

Name: Karin Sharp

Date: 2/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Karin Sharp 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.

- Positive experiences working with a ND is that they treat at you as whole person rather than a symptom
- What I appreciate about working with an ND on my health is that they look for the root cause verses treating the symptoms only. My ND has solved problems in 1 appointment that I'd seen the primary care physician 3-4 times over the course of a year.
- Value of naturopathic care – less cost of care overall when root cause can be treated verses ongoing medication costs and possible side effects of ongoing treatments
- I see an ND specifically because the options provided when visiting my primary care physician aren't providing a solution, they provide options to relieve my symptoms which isn't acceptable when living with a chronic illness.
- Naturopathic physicians should be treated as an equal option to primary care physician, covered by insurance and paid equally for services

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

Sincerely,

Karin Sharp

Name: Karina Dinehart

Date: February 15, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Karina Dinehart 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 have been living with a fibromyalgia diagnosis and chronic pain for over 15 years. I have seen a number of traditional medical doctors since then. It has been numerous 10 minute appointments from doctors who don't have the time to get to know me or my file and history leading to unsuccessfully treating symptoms and misdiagnosis's.

Since I began seeing Doctor Amanda Roe, she has taken the time to learn and diagnose my health issues with real and lasting solutions. My pain is lessened for the first time in 15 years. She also treats my daughter and now son and husband, after seeing the exceptional care she has taken with me. She won't settle for a 10 minute appointment and works tirelessly until she can find answers to treat existing and preventative health of the entire person.

I have never seen a more professional and outstanding physician. She should be compensated equally if not above other doctors. While a clinic physician might spend 10 mins with a patient and move on Dr Roe will spend an hour with a patient while at the appointment and numerous hours after researching and finding the best patient care possible

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

Sincerely,

Karina Dinehart

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate & House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kathryn Lyons and I have been seeing Naturopathic Doctors for more than 30 years now.

My first visit was when I was pregnant with my first child and developed a urinary tract infection. I did not want to take any chemical drug or antibiotic that could in any way disrupt the safety of my pregnancy. A Naturopathic Dr. gave me a natural botanical treatment that had zero side effects, and completely took care of the UT infection.

After this experience, I continued to see this Naturopathic Doctor (Dr. Noel Peterson, ND, Lake Oswego, OR) and have also seen others. Dr. Peterson has developed, and now specializes in regenerative joint care - in most cases, preventing one from having to have surgeries to replace joints if one gets care before too much damage has been done to the joint. At 57 years, I have had his treatment on several joints, including a complete reversal of a frozen shoulder. I cannot recommend his treatments enough!

Although I believe there is place for allopathic MDs, I do believe that Naturopathic Doctors provide superior care and prevention for one's overall health, as Naturopathic Doctors actually go to the source of disease, instead of just a band-aid approach. Naturopathic Doctors are vital to our community and should be compensated as such.

I am asking that you Please VOTE YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lyons

Name: Kelly Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Arnold

Kimberlea Wilson
January 25, 2019
Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Kimberlea Wilson 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 appreciate working with an ND on my health because she spends time finding the root of the symptom I am experiencing and treats my body back to homeostasis. I do not believe in taking pharmaceuticals to mask symptoms, and not treat the real issue. I do not want artificial chemicals in my body producing worse or further side effects for myself or my daughter.
-
- I see an ND specifically because she spends quality time with me each visit asking a holistic variety of questions regarding my overall health, not just the acute issue I am experiencing. It is important to me I treat my body to the root and repair it's self back to health. I value the time I get with my ND and her knowledge to help my health holistically.

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

Sincerely,

Kimberlea Wilson

Name: Kymerli Colbourne

Date: 2/13/19


Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

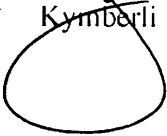
My name is Kymerli Colbourne and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I use my Naturopathic Physician as my primary care provider and appreciate her ability to use conventional medical treatments along side naturopathic supportive treatment plan along with all preventative measures.

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

Sincerely,



Kymerli Colbourne



Lauren Lambert

1/25/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Lauren Lambert and I have seen Naturopathic Physicians since 2008 when I needed help addressing significant health concerns. I feel my quality of life has been positively impacted especially as I'm working with people who share my health perspective. NDs provide an environment for growing and learning, and I feel encouraged through somewhat discouraging health trials.

In my experience NDs are extremely knowledgeable, attentive, and comprehensive they value care for various factors in health (not simply physical, but emotional as well), and coordinate care for integrated body systems and functions (one example: how digestive health and the brain are related). I also appreciate the openness and honesty in being referred to other specialists when necessary which shows a collaborative environment.

I highly regard the educational background of Naturopathic Doctors as evidenced by their years of training, experience, and expertise. I also trust NDs in caring for my young children. I believe that by seeing an ND I am investing in my future and my family's future by working on preventative health. I feel I am receiving personalized care.

I highly value this profession in the state of Oregon and I believe it is an absolutely necessary field. Doctors should be compensated fairly to continue encouraging this practice.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Lambert

Name: Leah Harrison

Date: 02/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Leah Harrison 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 have had many positive experiences working with a Naturopathic physician over my lifetime. As I child, when I had food allergies, the first to suggest this possibility was a NP. Following that I did have a skin allergy test, confirming the allergies.

I appreciate working with a Naturopathic physician because I feel they truly work to heal you and help you to live a healthier life – therefore requiring much less frequent visits to a MD or the urgent care. I have worked with an ND over the years to regulate my bold sugars, regulate my menstrual cycle and for varying degrees of sinus problems. All with success! And with a natural approach, only heading to the MD for a true sinus infection or for yearly exams when truly necessary.

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

Sincerely,

Leah Harrison

Date: 02.05.2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Lonnie L. Port 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.

My recent experience began just last month, and it has been a great relief to get detailed attention for my hormonal issues; details that my general physician was unwilling or unable to provide. I learned of my ND from my boss at work, who referred Dr. Daivati, describing her as very in depth and extremely thorough. I can tell you that she took a much deeper dive into my blood work and found a few very illuminating details, explaining why I wasn't sleeping and why I was having over 20 hot flashes a day. Now, after only a couple of weeks of taking a very low dose of equalized hormones, created specifically for me, I'm feeling better than I have for years. (Something I was beginning to fear was out of reach for me at my age).

Words cannot express how appreciative I am to find a ND healthcare provider that takes a deeper dive into what seems like an ordinary healthy 54 year old woman and took the time to explain my blood test results in detail and work with me to regain my health and wellness. I am now looking forward to improved health and happier times ahead.

My general physician is a wonderful woman, but I feel she has too many patients and not enough time to dive into my particular hormonal harmony the way I needed her to do for me. I can't say for sure if it is a matter of time, knowledge or worry. (She was afraid that if I took hormones, I would be increasing my chance of breast cancer). Whatever the barrier, I was left feeling hopeless and unwell. Something that I really hadn't felt during the course of my life and it wasn't good.

I am really grateful that I'm able to have my general physician on hand, but also am able to seek the deeper knowledge of a naturopathic physician for issues beyond broken bones and mammograms.

In closing, for the above hormonal example that I've recently shared, it is my humble opinion that naturopathic physicians should be paid a fair rate for the invaluable services they are able to provide. There is currently too wide a gap in pay between the two health care providers that I enjoy in tandem to help me chart my health through the 2nd phase of my life.

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

Kindest regards,

Lonnie L. Port
4007 SE Reedway Street
Portland, OR 97202
503.860.2111

Name: Lorrie Oltman

Date: February 15, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Lorrie Oltman 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 have been a patient of an ND, Dr. Dreager at Natural Health Works in Oregon City, for 7 years. The care I receive from Dr. Dreager is an important part my overall wellbeing. I get excellent care that provides professional, unique, and successful treatment.
- We are fortunate that Dr. Dreager's services are covered by our insurance. If this were not the case we may not be able to afford this important part of my medical care.

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

Sincerely,

Lorrie Oltman

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

I have been working almost exclusively with Naturopathic Physicians for 14 years since my oldest son was a toddler. I tried numerous MDs to help with mysterious systems with his skin, bowels and behavior that no one helped. After one visit to an ND a persistent rash he had went away and never returned.

Since then I have entrusted my care with NDs for my other two children and myself. I find that their holistic view helps find underlying root causes rather than quick fixes that only treat the surface symptom.

There education and wisdom is no less than someone who has an MD and I believe they deserve equal recognition on being included in insurance benefits as well as equivalent pay.

Please vote yes on the naturopathic physician parity bill.

Sincerely,

Maija Ryan
503-953-5535

February 14, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Marissa Emery 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.

My naturopathic doctor has supported my return to health for the past six+ years. In stark contrast to MDs I have seen in the past, my ND takes the time to listen to my whole health history to get a full picture of my health and the contributing factors. She has helped me address lifestyle changes and stress management in ways that have felt achievable; this has simultaneously targeted the chronic complaints I have had AND also changed my overall health and wellness for the better. The holistic nature of this medical care is so valuable, and NDs should be paid comparably to their peers.

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

Sincerely,

Marissa Emery

Name: Marlo Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Marlo Grubbe 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 am almost 50 years old and have been seeing a naturopathic physician for many years to deal with my hormone issues, anxiety, sleep challenges as well as a number of other issues. I have been able to have success and without using pharmaceuticals and have been able to manage my own self care without using the "system" to pay for my health and wellness

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

Sincerely,

Marlo Grubbe

Name: Matt Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Matt Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Sanders

Name: Matthew Jacobsen with MTSL Group

Date: 2/1/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Matthew Jacobsen and I am an owner of a billing company that works with many ND's. I would like to share my experience working with several NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

I personally had some significant healthcare issues for many years. As someone who had worked with MDs in Oregon for several years I had no shortage of top-quality professional advice on what may be afflicting me. In fact, I had roundtable discussions with several doctors at once but to no avail. Until I ventured into the ND world about 5 years ago. On my first ND, the ND correctly diagnosed my problem, ordered the test to prove it, and upon making the required change I was well again for the first time in 10-years. What else can I say? For me, that single visit with my ND was worth more than the 100's of MD visits I had prior.

Since then I have worked closely with NUNM and built my business to cater to NDs so I can help them as they helped me. I've seen first hand the education, competence and professionalism that is taught in the school and I've seen that translate into the real world.

My company processes the bills for about 40 different practices, MD & ND and I've also seen that NDs get paid less than MDs for doing more work which is a travesty. If the goal of healthcare is better outcomes at lower costs there should be no question that NDs are doing that.

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

Sincerely,

**Matthew Jacobsen
MTSL Group**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Jacobsen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Name: Megan Arnold

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Megan Arnold 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Megan Arnold

Name: Melanie Rickmann

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Melanie Rickmann 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Melanie Rickmann

Name: Melissa Canning

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Melissa Canning 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Canning

Dear Sen Monnes Anderson and Oregon Health Care Committee,

I am writing to you regarding the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill. I and my family have been patients of Naturopathic doctors for 20+ years. ND's are the founders of Functional Medicine which some MD's are now promoting as a specialty (as does my own DO).

Naturopathy has been vital to my own health and that of my family as well as a core component of our preventive medicine. It helped us discover food allergies that were making us sick, a genetic mutation affecting our absorption of B12 and more.

I believe all insurance carriers should be required to provide the same coverage for ND's and they do for MD's as both play an essential role of our overall health and well being. It also lowers healthcare costs making good financial sense.

Being paid a fair and livable wage is only right! I ask that you vote YES in favor of this bill.

Thank you!

All the best,

Michele Brasfield

Date: 2/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Michelle Crosby 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 have used a naturopathic physician as my primary care provider for over a decade. I have found that I have received considerably more face time with my provider than I ever did with a general practitioner. Because of that, I believe I have received very specific and accurate care. My naturopathic provider considers my entire health history each and every time I visit her. She knows me and is able to apply not only expertise in the medical field, but also a deeper level of caring and intuition toward me as a person because she knows me well. I am always given both medical and natural options when she is prescribing care. I sincerely believe that naturopathy is valuable and should work in cooperation with traditional medicine. My provider accomplishes this expertly and with honest empathy.

Patient choice, especially in the United States of America, should be honored when an individual selects a primary care physician. I was devastated when my provider informed me that due to a change in my insurance coverage (provided by a public school district) requires me now to pay huge out of pocket visit fees in addition to our monthly insurance premiums when my family chooses naturopathic providers. This makes no sense to me.

Furthermore I have recently learned that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to other providers. When I compare the quality of care that I have received from my naturopathic provider to the decades of care I received from traditional providers, well honestly there is no comparison! No traditional provider has ever spent even close to the amount of quality time with me nor advised such wholistic, long-lasting solutions as the two naturopathic providers I have seen.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Crosby

Name: Monica Finn

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Monica Finn 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Monica Finn

Name: Nate Cooper

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nate Cooper 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Nate Cooper

Name: Owen Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Owen Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Owen Grubbe

Name: Nicole Gottfried

Date: February 11, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Nicole Gottfried 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 have been seeing Naturopaths for over 20 years and have received far superior care to what I was getting from a Medical Doctor. Naturopaths allow more time at every appointment so that the patient can be heard, does not feel rushed, and concerns are met. MDs allow 10-15 minutes max; long enough to listen to the reason you are there and prescribe a pill to mask your symptoms. I am thankful that Insurance has covered Naturopaths and given me the choice to decide who I see. I hope that Naturopaths will be compensated more fairly, as they have done so much more for me than MDs have – Yet they are paid so much less.

As I mentioned, I have seen Naturopaths for years. My primary care physician is a ND not a MD and she is there to help with everything from a cold to my disabling disease. She offers remedies, supplements, special diet plans, massage therapy, as well as prescriptions when needed. She goes above and beyond any MD. I have experienced improved general health and my MS symptoms are under control without the nasty side effects of harsh drugs that my Neurologist had prescribed me in the past.

It is my hope that everyone be able to experience the value of naturopathic care. That disease can be cured and not just masked with harmful drugs. That everyone has the choice to choose who treats them. That health insurance will cover NDs and that NDs will be paid the same as MDs.

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

Sincerely,

Nicole Gottfried

Name: Niven Singh

Date: February 13th, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Niven Singh 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.

Over the years, Naturopathic physicians are the only doctors I have interacted with who are intent on resolving the root cause of an ailment or condition. As a result, the immediate issue is resolved but also one's overall health is addressed. Preventative care is a direct result of working with naturopathic doctors, resulting in a healthier community. So why is it that naturopathic doctors are paid so little compared to other providers when they are doing work to enhance the general public's welfare?

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

Sincerely,

Niven Singh

Name: Priscilla Pimentel

Date: February 1st, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Priscilla Pimentel 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 appreciate that every time I've come in, I get taken care of well. I do not feel rushed, I feel that my concerns and wants are being listened to. I really like the fact that I get the best of both worlds with my ND. I've only had positive experiences here, and I rather go out of my way to get to this naturopathic physician's office than go anywhere else. Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Priscilla Pimentel

Name: Prisha Kukkal

Date: 2/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Prisha Kukkal 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 grew up in Oregon and have had a very positive experience with my naturopathic physician. I really appreciate all the work that she has done for me, and my quality of life has improved immensely since she became my naturopathic physician. The treatments that I have received have been more beneficial to me than those that other doctors have prescribed. I believe that there is true value in naturopathic medicine.

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

Sincerely,

Prisha Kukkal

Name: Rahim Tufts

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rahim Tufts 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Rahim Tufts

Name: Rebekah Montrose

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rebekah Montrose 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Rebekah Montrose

Name: Renae Henderson

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Renae Henderson 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Renae Henderson

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Committees on Health Care:

My name is Robin Moore 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.

My whole family (husband, son and I) have been patients of an ND for 10 years now. We feel this has been beneficial to our whole family because our doctor (and others in the practice) take time to understand the whole body, not I just try to treat symptoms.

During this time my family and I have had various health issues that we have been able to have identified and managed without the need for costly tests, procedures or medications. The naturopathic approach takes a more holistic view of health which ultimately has lead to us all being able to lead healthy lives without becoming reliant on medication.

I can personally attest to the difference and value of an ND because I had various health issues that had been previously unsuccessfully identified or treated by MDs for the previous 15 years prior to seeing an ND. During the period of time when I was seeing MDs, I was subjected to many costly tests, scans, procedures and medications of which I'm one identified the problem or provide relief.

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

Sincerely,
Robin Moore

February 13, 2019

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee,

I have been a patient of a Naturopathic physician for over 35 years, which is over half my life. Naturopathic medicine emphasizes building one's own immune system to prevent disease and to health from sickness and injury quickly. It relies on the medicine that nature provides, making it accessible, cost effective, and safe. I am rarely sick and when I am, I am back on my feet quickly. Most people I know get sicker every year with colds and flu that hang on for weeks.

I notice, though, that Naturopathic physicians are not compensated fairly when compared to conventional physicians. I urge you to support the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Thank you.

Regards,

Sally Rose
South Beach, Oregon

Name: Samira F Tannure

Date: Feb 1, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Samira F Tannure 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've had visited many other types of physicians, and yet I was never thoroughly heard until I consulted with an ND. I consider my ND now my primary doctor because of the outstanding care provided every time I go in for an appointment. The holistic approach to and understanding of my health needs have never been so completely satisfied by any other provider.

I believe there is unique value in naturopathic care and do not see a reasonable explanation to differentiate it from any other choice of care available to patients. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Samira F Tannure

Name: Sarah Davis

Date: 2/8/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Sarah Davis 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.

Naturopathic physicians are a critical part of the healthcare system. They tend to spend **more time** with me and work to understand what the underlying causes are of my symptoms. I have used an ND for years for primary care as well as for acute ailments.

Naturopathic physicians also have a larger arsenal of treatment options. I have had experiences seeing both an MD and an ND for the same issue at different times. The MD prescribed a medication that cost me \$15 and cost more for the insurance company. The ND prescribed a mixture of VINEGAR and WATER. Both remedies were equally effective. This, to me, sums up the importance of naturopathic physicians. They can treat ailments using both traditional medicine *and* more natural remedies, which are **less costly** (or free!) to patients and the healthcare system as a whole.

It is unfathomable that Naturopathic Physicians are paid less than doctors in mainstream care facilities. In my experience, they provide equal or better care and I get **more options** for how to treat my symptoms from MDs—both evidence-based and traditional methods.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Davis
Wilsonville, OR

Name: Sarah Wayland

Date: February 9, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Sarah Wayland 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.

- After 17 years (2001 – 2018) of being undiagnosed, I was introduced to Heidi Peterson, ND, mold infection specialist in March of 2018.
- From 2009 – 2017 we spent between \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year Out Of Pocket even though we had “excellent” medical coverage because I was unable to find solutions through western medicine so turned to alternative methods. I was told by western doctors that I was a hypochondriac, should stop looking online and that it was all in my head.
- From 2001 - 2018 a naturopathic doctor helped me to –
 - o Improve my depression through Vitamin D.
 - o Determine that I did, in fact, have Hypothyroidism and treat it appropriately.
 - o Determined that eating well and losing weight was imperative for me and assisted toward that end.
- When I met Dr. Peterson I was sleeping eight (8) or nine (9) hours per night and two (2) to four (4) hours per day.
 - o Today I sleep eight (8) or nine (9) hours per night and I may or may not take a 45-60 minute nap during the day.
- In 2013 I became unable to manage my accounting position within a few months due to the mold infection. I was suddenly no longer able to work.
- In 2014 because of my loss of income, we were forced into filing for bankruptcy with excellent credit scores.
- In 2015 I discovered through an alternative path that my testosterone was at 50%. There is not a treatment through Western medicine for women due to the difference in testosterone strengths between men and women.
 - o Alternative methods of providing women testosterone can be expensive. Since 2015 I have spent between \$350 and \$700 per quarter out of pocket.
- All naturopaths I have worked with have considered both western and naturopathic approaches unlike western doctors.
- I utilize both ND’s and MD’s for different reasons and do not understand why they are not treated equally in all aspects.
- We all know that our health care system isn’t working for everybody. Giving ND’s the same respect, pay and insurance inclusion would make

them a viable choice for a patient. This is one step that would help overcome some of the barriers to wellness and improve our flagging health care system in general.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Wayland
wayland63@gmail.com
541-844-8116

Name: Shannon Meade

Date: 02/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Shannon Meade, 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.

- When I or my child visit our ND, we are given ample time to thoroughly discuss both health and development. Each appointment lasts longer than any visit I have been provided with our usual MDs. We then have the opportunity to be educated and thoroughly understand each concern.

- For my son specifically we are finally getting to the bottom of his sleep issues and food sensitivities, issues I have raised with his MD multiple times and only provided with limited options and information. The depth of the information we've been provided by our ND has been incredibly helpful!

- My question is why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? More time and attention has always been provided to us in this context, and that time had been invaluable!

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

Sincerely,

Shannon Meade

Shelley Rosales

2/11/19

Re: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Shelley Rosales, 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 struggled with fertility and thyroid issues for a very long time. I had seen other doctors, regular OBs and MDs who did not address my issues at all, gave me very little time in their offices, and generally made me feel fairly stupid about any of my problems. When I started seeing an ND for these issues, it was the first time I felt heard and truly cared for in a very long time. My whole body and all my issues were addressed, time and compassion were granted to me, and I truly believe after 3 miscarriages that had it not been for the careful attention paid to my pregnancy at the time by an ND, my child would not have been born or been as healthy as he was.

I work in healthcare personally, so I am no fool as to how the system works, how corrupt it can be, and how little naturopathic care is given respect. I know that naturopathic medicine is not valued, though there are no grounds for it. One such example goes like this. Right before I discovered I was pregnant with my son, I visited a general practitioner, a PCP just to establish care because I thought it would be a good idea to have someone enlisted besides my midwife. When I discussed my past history and what a ND had done for me, blood work, tests, etc. to see why I had trouble conceiving and carrying a child, the MD listened and agreed that all the tests done were excellent, what she would have done herself, and that I was clearly in excellent care with that midwife/ND. When she discovered after telling her all of this that my midwife/ND was a naturopathic physician, she back-pedaled, and started declaring to me how scared she was for me, that I wasn't in good hands, that my unborn child was in danger. Her only basis for this reaction was on the title of Naturopathic Physician: it had nothing to do with the care I had been given. It was utter nonsense.

Naturopathic Physicians receive more education than an MD, or even a DO. What they are required to learn and practice has value for people who don't want another pill or side effect from a drug. We need people who are committed to giving whole body care, who listen to patients without judgment or wrong motive. When I have been in their care, I have direct access to my doctor: I don't have to go through a gauntlet of nurses or MAs or assistants or answering services. Everyone should be able to get care like this. We shouldn't have to fight to keep the healthcare we want to have! Is it not enough we are paying exorbitant

premiums and deductibles and out of pockets for limited healthcare, but now to have the threat of not choosing the doctors we want as well? I beg of you to consider that Oregon is a place people want to be because they are able to get good quality naturopathic medicine. Is this not the home of the NCNM? Do you really want this state to be known as a place that used to be worth living in for values such as these but now is no better than other narrow-minded states?

I am asking that you would vote yes on the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Shelley Rosales

Name: Simona Hanganu

Date: Feb 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Simona Hanganu 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 have been seeing Dr. Khivan Oberoi, ND for the past 5 years and my life quality has greatly improved. She listens to me and my needs and provides expert care that not only improves my physical wellbeing, but my mental health as well. She truly is knowledgeable in all aspects of my health, providing a whole body and mind care and I see her as my primary care physician. I trust her with my health and have always received the best care.

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

Sincerely,

Simona Hanganu

Name: Spencer Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Spencer Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Spencer Grubbe

Name: Steve Oltman

Date: February 11, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Steve Oltman 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.

- About two years ago I hurt my shoulder very badly. An orthopedic surgeon described the surgery I would need as “heroic”. I would be in a sling for months followed by months and months of physical therapy and results were not guaranteed. I elected to be treated by an ND, Dr. Peterson at ORM in Lake Oswego, using PRP injections and exercise. I am not over stating it when I describe the results as life changing. I now do hot yoga three times a week and my shoulder feels terrific.
- My entire experience and interaction with Dr. Peterson and the entire staff at ORM was professional, positive and successful.

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

Sincerely,

Steve Oltman

Name: Susan Langston

Date: 2/6/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Susan Langston 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.

My naturopathic physician provide similar service to an MD – in fact, because they take the time to understand my specific situation they can provide excellent care.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

Name: Susan Reiss

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Susan Reiss 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Reiss

Name: Tamer Kiykioglu

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tamer Kiykioglu 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tamer Kiykioglu

Name: Tammi Burg

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Tammi Burg 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.

Since seeing a Naturopathic Physician I have seen optimal health improvement in treating me as a whole person, getting to the root cause of health issue, instead of the conventional approach a M.D. who merely treats the symptoms with overpriced pharmaceuticals, not dealing with the root cause of illness relating to all levels of health concerns.

Working with an ND has radically changed my health and optimal well being. My ND takes all the time needed to discuss health care plans with me so that I clearly understand protocols for optimal health in a holistic approach, which is critical for me.

The choice for me as a patient to see a qualified ND, over a conventional MD is night and day! When seeing conventional MD's I was never given appropriated time to get to the root cause, but was given a prescription for over priced pharmaceuticals that have adverse side effects, making my health more vulnerable and never improving my health conditions.

I am a person who takes excellent care of my body, exercise daily, spend a lot of time researching health and have gained much knowledge from doing so. I would not consider seeing an MD over and ND for all the reasons listed above, to sum up, living life in holistic manner, improving my quality of life to an optimal degree.

I can NOT understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to other providers I have seen, this seems unfair and unreasonable.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill, it,s the fair thing to do.

Sincerely,

Tammi Burg

From: Teresa Joseph, Oregon resident

Date: 02/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Teresa Joseph 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 suffer from an autoimmune disorder called Hashimoto's (Thyroid). Traditional medicine detected a change in my overall Thyroid panel but attributed this to age and no further testing was deemed necessary. At the time I was barely 50 years old. I felt strongly that there these numbers and my symptoms were trying to tell me something. In 2014 I was referred to a ND by a friend so I decided to give this doctor a try and it was the best decision I ever made. This physician was able to run appropriate blood tests that revealed a high level of thyroid antibodies, diagnosing me with Hashimoto's. Since working closely with my ND I was successfully able to lose 42 pounds and regain my energy levels.

Another key point I feel important is that NDs are not afraid to use traditional medicine when deemed necessary. They will opt for natural methods when available, but ultimately will prescribe antibiotics and other standard medications if they feel it is in the best interest of the patient.

In today's medical environment the word "Choice" is bantered about quite a bit (most commonly a woman's right to choose). I feel that choice of medical providers is definitely needed. We see less and less options available as insurance companies drop doctors and limit those choices to select few. Having naturopathic care as one of the options available is necessary for many of us battling conditions that warrant a whole body approach.

I have had some barriers to seeing my ND even though she is able to provide exceptional treatment and this actually saves money in the long run. Most people with Hashimoto's are encouraged to seek treatment from an Endocrinologist. Many of my peers with the same disorder report that most endocrinologists do not take their symptoms seriously and will not change medications when symptoms are not improving. In addition these specialists are quite expensive. So why don't insurance companies see the value in this? Overall they would be saving substantially more money by allowing their policy holders to seek care of a qualified ND.

One of the main reasons I seek treatment from my ND is because of the fact that the overall care is above the normal standard and the cost is the same or much less in the long run. Why are insurance companies paying these providers substantially less for better care? This seems wrong to me and should be corrected immediately. I implore you to do everything you can to fight the insurance companies on my behalf (and countless others who rely on their ND for treatment).

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

Sincerely,



Teresa Joseph
Life long Oregon resident

Date: February 13, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees:

My name is Teresa Lockwood 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 was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in 1987. I was told there is no known cause and no known cure for lupus and was prescribed Prednisone, which ended up destroying my immune system and my joints. I still suffer the side effects and degeneration of my joints. My ankles have been fused, my right shoulder replaced, and most likely will have to have a hip replacement, all due to long-term use of corticosteroids.

I have restored my immune system and gut health with the help of naturopathic physicians (25 years later). It changed my life! Lupus was cured through dietary and lifestyle changes that I learned from "alternative" doctors. I am extremely grateful to the guidance and teachings of naturopathic physicians! I am 61 and feel great. However, I will need the guidance of my ND as well as MDs as I deal with the joint issues going forward.

Besides lupus, I have been diagnosed with anxiety, depression, PTSD, and addiction. I no longer suffer with any of these diseases! I am now a healthy woman – body, mind, soul, and spirit. This is why I need to continue to see an ND, specifically, since their guidance has contributed to my healing.

Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am especially concerned about this difference because naturopathic physicians have helped me far more than any other provider that I have had. They deserve MORE!

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

Sincerely,

Teresa Lockwood
3257 Jay Ct NW
Salem, OR 97304

Name: Terri Mundt

Date: February 5, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Terri Mundt, 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.

- Positive experiences working with naturopathic physician. I have rheumatoid arthritis, and Dr Daiviti has been supportive and caring and has been a positive help in my way to better health
- What I appreciate about working with an ND on my health: Working with Dr. Daiviti is so different from working with an MD. I go into her office, and she sits on the couch with me and listens while I tell her why I'm there, nothing like the maybe 5 minutes I get with my MD who just prescribes more drugs. She offers both natural medicines and hands-on body work for my pain.
- Value of naturopathic care: The care I receive is helpful, beneficial, and it works. Yes, it involves my participation in my own health, and it's just not looking for a quick fix.
- Patient choice: I would always choose a naturopath for my care, except that my insurance does not cover her services. I consider my visits a necessary treat that I cannot always afford.
- General barriers to care: If Medicare and my Medicare Advantage Plan covered naturopathic care, it would always be my first choice.
- This is why I see an ND specifically: personal care and remedies that work but do not require prescriptions or drugs.
- Why are naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? If Medicare covered naturopaths, they could be paid like MDs. Since Medicare doesn't offer coverage, the other plans feel they don't need to cover it, either.

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

Sincerely,

Terri Mundt
8905 NW Ash Street
Portland OR 97229

Name: Gary Parks

Date: January 21, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Gary Parks 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.

My family and I have been seeing Dr. Chapman and his wife for quite a few years now. We searched for quite a while to find a physician that would listen and understand. Most of our experiences were not pleasant. We recognized if we didn't fit into a box that we would be marginalized. Since seeing the Chapmans we have noticed a few things; They spend personalized time listening and understanding our situation at every visit. Situations that were not resolved with 4 plus other physicians were resolved with their tenacity and care. A willingness to refer if we needed other experts. A willingness to learn and work with other modes they were not familiar with. We have never felt put down or stupid. Instead, we have felt valued and honored every time we visit. For the money, hands down we feel that the care we receive is more "bang for the buck" than anything we have found so far.

I do wonder why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

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

Sincerely,

Gary Parks

02/12/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tiffany Emmett 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. We have been working with NDs for several years, but our primary experience has been with "Canyon Medical Center" and with the birth of our baby girl Wren. The importance of a ND is the focus on preventive care with an effort to reduce intervention. For example, our little girl decided to flip herself in the womb, requiring an inversion. At the medical center one of the Doctors attempted to complete an inversion and when Wren would not flip she stopped and we tried another day with DR. Dewitt and an acupuncturist, Wren flipped right back into place. In a hospital it is not too uncommon for an epidural to be put into place or just to try to force the baby into place despite extreme pain to the mother. Also, my husband's experience has included psoriasis being cured with Vitamin D coupled with a prescription to be more active and to get out in the sun more often. His back pain was treated with yoga (never to come back, though he stopped his practice). So far, the side effects from all our treatments we have received from our treatments with NDs has been bad tasting tinctures, improved mood from destressing breath techniques/increased exercise, being reminded to eat healthy, not to drink too much and professional guidance that empowers us to not only treat the symptom but to treat the underlying causes. The most important of all, we have a healthy beautiful girl and we trust the doctors at "Canyon Medical Center" before all others. It is also important to note that when our NDs at "Canyon Medical Center" were not in a position to help us they promptly advised us on who to see. An ND may not be the right choice in every situation, but neither is a MD. It should be a choice available for all to determine what who is the best suited to advise and treat them with their health needs and requirements.

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

Sincerely,

Tiffany and Trevor Emmett

Name: Tobie Sanders

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tobie Sanders 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tobie Sanders

Toby Shulruff
January 29, 2019
Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Toby Shulruff and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician, as are my two children, Asher, 8, and Esther, 4. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My family receives the highest quality care: we meet with our ND for hour-long appointments in which she asks about our basic health, as well as social and emotional wellbeing. She knows each of us, and all of us as a family. She is able to offer us options including nutrition, pharmaceutical, and complimentary medicine.

My ND is also a midwife, and she provided excellent prenatal care to my family and me. Not only did she visit us at home the night before the birth to help us prepare to go to the hospital the next day, she made sure the hospital was prepared to receive us, and she stayed at the hospital all day until we had stabilized after the birth. She was only able to bill insurance for a standard office visit (and that at an unequally low rate, I have learned!), despite providing over 10 hours of care. She then followed up with us at home the next day to perform wellness checks for my daughter and myself.

Last year, I was distressed after a lab visit to another facility that involved poor bedside manner. My ND referred me to a specialist for future care, and personally followed up to ensure the referral went through successfully.

I believe that every patient in Oregon deserves this level of care. And I believe that my ND should be equally compensated with MD's for the even higher standard of care she offers.

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

Sincerely,
Toby Shulruff

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When you're moving in the positive, the destination is the brightest star!

-Stevie Wonder

Name: Tracey Tired

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tracey Tired 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Tracey Tired

Name: Travis Magrane

Date: 2/12/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Travis Magrane and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I'm writing today to urge you to vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

I have long appreciated the level of care and consideration I have received from naturopathic physicians. They take the time to listen, to inquire and consider the holistic picture of my health and wellbeing. When receiving health care from medical doctors, I often feel like I'm receiving care via a drive through window – as though I'm just another patient to fit in a 15-minute window. This is not to disparage medical doctors, only that the level of care and attention naturopathic physicians provide often far exceed those of medical doctors. Further, they support preventative and lifestyle adjustments to medical concerns in concert with other recommendations such as supplements or prescriptions, working to identify and treat the root cause of an issue rather than purely mask the symptom.

It follows that – at minimum – naturopathic physicians should be paid commensurate to medical professionals with similar educational experience.

It is a shame the many naturopathic physicians – who must complete years of intense medical study and often go into significant debt to do so – do not receive pay equity under current practice.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to other health care professionals?

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

Sincerely,

Travis Magrane

February 9, 2019

Re: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Vanessa Blake and I have been a patient of a Naturopathic Physician for nearly a decade. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I love my naturopathic doctor and appreciate how she is able to quickly focus in on a diagnosis. She is able to prescribe herbal remedies that treat my ailments without the negative side effects that drugs have. Using naturopathic remedies that don't leave me feeling drugged is SO important to me because drugs do not behave well in my body. She is forward thinking about alternate forms of medicine. For instance, rather than using drugs to treat a cold, I can go in for a hydrotherapy treatment. She knows what orthobionomy is and how to use it to create immediate pain relief -- without drugs.

I particularly appreciate her helping me pinpoint what's wrong, rather than shrugging her shoulders when I continue to feel unwell and saying "I don't know what's wrong with you" and leaving me still sick and unsatisfied (which is what led me to her in the first place!). She "hears" me. She is more in tune with the body and how to heal it, and that's vitally important to my health and wellbeing.

I am fortunate that my company feels that alternative forms of medicine, including naturopathic, are important to its employees and our copays are the same as they are for "traditional" doctors.

I feel strongly that everyone should have the access that I do to naturopathic medicine. It's made a huge difference in my health.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa Blake
Portland

February 15, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Verne Lindner 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 suffer from several gastro-intestinal issues, and have since I was a child. During the decades of treatment I received at the hands of numerous MDs, never once did a doctor suggest that changing my diet might ameliorate my issues. Only when I began seeing NDs, was I asked about what I eat and how I live. NDs put me a diet that literally changed my life. From experience, I know that the MD approach was inadequate to heal me, and the ND approach was effective.

My ND works with me on overall wellness. She takes the time to understand all the factors in my life that contribute to good or ill health. I can count on my ND to know who I am, and know my health profile.

It's inexplicable to me that NDs are paid so little in comparison with MDs when, if I'm any example (and I bet I'm just one among many), treatment by an ND goes further to extend wellness into old age, saving costly care for bodies that haven't been systematically well cared for during their younger years.

I urge you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Verne Lindner
Multnomah County voter

February 7, 2019

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Wanda Sanseri and I have greatly benefitted for many years as a patient of Naturopathic Physicians. My birth family had many serious health issues, took massive prescription drugs, and spent a lot of time in the hospital. In their fifties they all became insulin dependent diabetics. They all developed cancer, high blood pressure, and had strokes. My dad retired on disability when he was in his fifties. They all spent a lot of time in the hospital.

In my early twenties I was hospitalized because I had an unbroken fever from Christmas to Easter. When the fever broke they sent me home and told me to be happy. This was a wake up call for me. I started searching then for a better path. That was my last hospital stay except when I delivered my four children. I will turn 73 this year.

I faced many of the challenges as my birth family. I became obese, had colon issues, and struggled with high blood pressure. Naturopaths have helped me naturally bring down my bp from 200/100 to normal. My blood sugar is normal. I eat healthier food and now weigh 130 pounds. I look younger than my age and I have energy and vitality. Because of health support from naturopaths I have had a more productive life. I have outlived by age my father and brother and will soon have outlived my mom. By my age she had already had several strokes.

Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. We need their valuable services.

Sincerely,

Wanda Sanseri

Name: Yana Dalcher

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Yana Dalcher 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Yana Dalcher

Name: Zachary Grubbe

Date: 2-13-19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Zachary Grubbe 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 have been able to address my health concerns from a preventative stand point. I prefer to manage my health and wellness without using pharmaceuticals as the first resort. This has resulted in my improved overall health. I believe we all have the right to access to all healthcare professionals.

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

Sincerely,

Zachary Grubbe