

Name: Jennifer Hampton

Date: 2/13/19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jennifer Hampton and I am a naturopathic medical student. I would like to share my experience as a student to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care.

- I decided to attend naturopathic medical school because of the holistic approach to the patient. We view each patient as an interconnected being requiring a personalized approach. This puts NDs in ideal position to provide primary care as well as to treat complex chronic conditions.
- ND medical school is a rigorous education in the full spectrum of medical care. We learn the same scientific foundations and standard of care as our allopathic counterparts. We also receive training in complementary and alternative modalities. This allows NDs to serve as a bridge between standard of care and patients seeking wider options for their healthcare.
- Given our training, we are well equipped to provide integrative care—a growing need in our current healthcare system. However, to be truly integrative practitioners we need to be treated as peers and partners in healthcare delivery.
- Going to naturopathic school is a huge investment of time and money. Graduates of naturopathic school should not have to worry about getting an adequate return on this investment—we are qualified, and we are needed. However, the current insurance structure does not provide equal coverage for equal work. Such unequal pay hinders the growth of naturopathic medicine—patients who could benefit from our services cannot access us and practitioners struggle to make a living. This is not fair to anyone.
- Naturopathic medicine has much to offer the state of Oregon. Please do your part to help us share our unique perspective on healthcare with as many patients as possible.

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

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hampton