

Name: Julie Anne Rhodes

Date: 2/10/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie Rhodes and I am a third-year medical student enrolled in the naturopathic doctoral/Masters of integrative mental health dual program at the National University of Natural Medicine. I have an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Clarion in Pennsylvania, a Master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh, and eight years of experience in developmental and cancer biology research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Children's Hospital.

I chose to pursue a career in naturopathic medicine when it became clear to me that the only tools within the clinical toolbox of the physicians and nurses I was working with at the hospital and those that my family members had been seeing were pharmaceuticals and expensive/high-risk surgical procedures. I was also disappointed by the absence of time invested in developing a therapeutic alliance with patients, which was a product of rapid fire consultations of seven to ten minutes per patient. As these strangers, friends and family members reluctantly accepted these offerings, hoping that they would work but knowing they would only provide a temporary fix, my internal intuition led me believe that there were many more options that started with lifestyle and diet, which also could be leveraged towards achieving a more profound level of health throughout one's lifetime.

My experience in biomedical research and lifestyle medicine has helped me realize the profound benefits of the integration of conventional medical practices with natural/traditional therapeutic modalities, and I strongly believe that there is a need for equal recognition and compensation of practitioners trained in the art and practice of naturopathic medicine in the state of Oregon.

During my three years of academic and clinical training in naturopathic medicine and integrative mental health at NUNM, I have developed a sense of confidence in my abilities to research, recognize, diagnose, and implement standard of care treatment strategies to a wide variety of pathological conditions, while also cultivating a broad knowledge base of natural therapies and supportive psychoemotional techniques that I feel will offer the patients I am able to serve an ability to become more participatory in their own healthcare, and also will enable me to become an asset to any healthcare team that I have the privilege of joining.

Education is one of the most impactful therapeutic modalities that naturopathic physicians have to offer patients, and when there is time to teach people how to live better, the outcome is happier families, healthier parents and offspring, cost savings when expensive procedures are avoided, and better collaboration between patients and healthcare teams.

My mission as an advocate of naturopathic medicine and holistic wellness is to continue cultivating my already strong foundation in science and evidence-based medicine, while enhancing my ability to engage and collaborate with patients in developing their understanding and interest in their own personal health.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Rhodes