

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is \*\*\*\*\* 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 has changed my life. Here are two examples:

First, after the birth of my second child, I was struggling with a number of medical issues. \*\*\*\*\* On the recommendation of a friend I went to a naturopathic physician. I had never been to one before. Here is what I found from my experience:

- I was treated as a whole person, not just the "part" that I was having issues with.
- My naturopathic physician coordinated care with other providers I needed, such as my midwife and physical therapist providing a level of continuity of care I have never seen before
- I was provided life guidelines, not just medications, to help me heal myself by making better choices

Within just a few short months I was on the mend. It was incredible! This is what medicine should look like. Having a medical professional who looks at all the pieces of the puzzle. Treating the person rather than the symptoms.

Second, I've suffered from \*\*\*\*\* my entire adult life. It wasn't until I went to my naturopathic physician that I was told that these disorders are connected. That they may indicate or progress into other \*\*\*\*\* issues. This information is helping guide my lifestyle and my choices for the rest of my life. The question I ask myself is why has it taken me over 20 years to get this kind of medical care?

So I ask you this- Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Why? Because this type of medical care should be the norm for everyone. Because I deserve to be able to choose the kind of care I want to receive. Because I hope more students choose to study at naturopathic medical schools. But most of all, because these naturopathic physicians are medical professionals who should be paid similarly to other physicians in the medical field.

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

Sincerely,

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