

Hello Task Force,

I am a Naturopathic Doctor who has been in practice since 2012.

I am generally in support of all I have seen outlined in your Plan Proposal. I admit, at first I was a bit underwhelmed by the comparative meager cost savings when globally comparing our current system to the proposed one.

But then I remembered the many, many friends, family and patients who get booted from their insurance due to employment, age (aging out of parents' plans), and all the many other circumstances that come up that mean one small accident could mean bankruptcy for those I care about.

Not to mention the surprise deductible bills, sudden change in prescription coverage, or unwieldy administrative burden that are pre-authorizations.

I have a very good friend who is also a healthcare practitioner and because she is self-employed had limited ACA coverage options. She is extremely nervous now at the last trimester of her high-risk pregnancy. She knows that the least need for medical intervention could easily mean tens of thousands of dollars in out of pocket expenses.

I believe it is more than worth it to make the change to take care of all the residents in this state.

If I may state a request, I would like to see in future plans specific verbiage about complementary health professions. Many of us, myself included, are participating providers with private insurance plans. Looking at current government systems, OHP is fairly restrictive in this regard (few panels are open for NDs to participate and even then they have small caps on numbers they accept), and Medicare as a federal program does not recognize my provider type at all.

So from a personal standpoint, I do have concerns about professions such as chiropractic, naturopathic, and acupuncture being left behind or heavily restricted in the new plan, but even then I still overall think it is worth it as a whole for our state.

Thank you,
Angela Cortal ND