

Dear Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Ilana Gurevich and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support SB772.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

The insurance companies set the same expectation for me that they set for my conventional colleagues. However they compensate us at 30-50% of what they compensate MD/DO/NP/PA's at. We are held to the same exact standard but are only compensated at less than 1/2. If that is not discrimination I am not sure what is.

I am asking you to vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Ilana Gurevich