

Re: SB772, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Kathleen Clarke and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support SB772.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this group.

My ND, Dr. Edythe Vickers, manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. She can provide superior accupuncture and abdominal massage. She is always sensitive to my financial needs and her competent staff helps me navigate the system. It is so important for me to have a physician who can hold complexity as my profile becomes increasingly complex. She responds almost daily to my email inquiries. I will soon be 73 and this one-stop shopping so-to-speak is an incredible boon to me.

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

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen M. Clarke former LCSW in OR