

30 March 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Kerry Quimby-Zenich 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 few 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 Naturopath is Dr. Katherine Neubauer, in Bend Oregon. She is one of only a few Naturopaths that are certified in Oncology. She participates with my oncologist, she participates in the tumor board meetings, she has hospital privileges and she manages MANY of my health care needs.

In 2005 with my initial diagnosis of brain cancer, she was not in the area, and I struggled through my treatments unsupported and completed only seven chemos in almost 24 months. I ended up needing blood products and was myelo-suppressed. Following my brain cancer regrowth in 2016, I immediately saw Dr. Neubauer. Mind you I was 11 years older now. She supported me every step of the way. I had more energy than in 2005. I was able to complete the twelve rounds of chemotherapy in the twelve months that they wanted me to. It was five days on then 23 off for a 28-day cycle for 12 months without a break. This was following a craniotomy at UCSF then Proton Beam Radiation at MD Anderson. If not for Dr. Neubauer, I am not sure where I would be. However, I am here now. This is a terminal diagnosis. I am now on Medicare and a Medicare supplement, neither of which would cover her visits. She has been incredibly helpful in allowing me a discounted rate for her visits. We are over \$75k in debt due to cancer. Not what anyone would want to do to their family.

This situation makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription (s). She also refers me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, she teaches me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improves 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.

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

Kindest Regards,

Kerry N. Quimby-Zenich

Sisters Oregon 97759