

I am asking you to vote YES on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. They are licensed to treat using the same ICD-10 codes - and should and must therefore be reimbursed equally by insurance companies for the same service. If not - the insurance companies (with no medical training) are designating how patients can access their care and are limiting our free choice as to the type of care provided. I would rather see someone who takes an hour with me, and considers with me my whole health, lifestyle, and circumstances, versus trying to treat a body part in a vacuum in 15 min. with a pharmaceutical prescription that ensures them a free golf tee time. This must stop. INSURANCE CO.'S SHOULD NOT be allowed to REGULATE healthcare in the USA.

I am writing as a patient, and a physical therapist who is in private practice and runs into constant challenges with insurance companies managing how I practice and what is reasonable and customary, (again, without the training, experience, and expertise I have developed over a 30-year career. ) Naturopathic doctors should also - of course - be included in Medicaid coverage. I know several friends who are having to find new Healthcare PCPs after decades with the same one, because they are now covered under Medicare.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Rev. Shawn D. Axten, PT, CST-D