

Subject: HB 2673 Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Daman Oberoi, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I had chronic digestive issues and the solution given to me by an MD was to take a pill every day for the rest of my life. I was in my mid-twenties at the time, and I didn't believe that could be the best possible solution. But MDs often only have pharmaceuticals in their toolbelt. Plus, they don't get more than 15 minutes to meet with a patient in order to really explore, evaluate, and explain better options.

Conversely, my ND inquired about my whole health. We talked about natural modalities that would likely help my condition without adverse side effects. We talked about how those changes, like removing inflammatory foods from my diet, would help me in other ways too beyond my digestion. As a result, I have switched to naturopathic medicine for my primary care and couldn't be happier. There are many patients like me across the state who have benefited from naturopathic care and there are countless more who could benefit from more naturopathic providers.

Unfortunately, naturopaths often have to choose between serving in the profession they love and being able to make ends meet. There is no good reason that these skilled, empathic, scientific doctors should get paid less than their MD or NP counterparts. It hurts not only the doctors, but the patients that they could be serving. It's a real injustice that NDs do not have pay parity.

I implore you to vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Daman Oberoi