

February 14, 2021

Re: HB2673, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors, (NDs)

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rev. David T Pace and I am a patient of Naturopathic Physician, Dr Edie Vickers. My experience in working with a Naturopath began in 1998 when I was facing major cancer surgery. A nurse with the National Cancer Society recommended that I begin seeing Dr Vickers to boost my body's ability to tolerate and heal from this surgery. Dr Vickers helped me through that difficult period and I have been seeing her regularly for the 23 years since. When I was again diagnosed with a rare cancer in 2014 Dr Vickers helped me prepare for that surgery. On the day following surgery I had a major stroke. Dr Vickers helped me through the recovery from that stroke as well. The last 7 years have been bumpy for me and she is an essential part of my care team. I see her every month to six weeks for support with the many issues that my nearly 80 year old body faces. I value her skilled and compassionate care that complements the care of my internist and numerous other specialists.

One example of the value of her care as a Naturopath stands out for me. In 2012 I was visiting friends in Scottsdale and became very ill. The local hospital diagnosed me with shingles and treated me as such. I recovered enough to leave the hospital and return home. I saw Dr Vickers immediately for post shingles acupuncture which has been demonstrated to help avoid post shingles neuropathy. Dr Vickers took one look at me and sent me immediately to my internist across the street at Good Samaritan Hospital saying I did NOT have shingles but in fact had cellulitis and needed a shot of antibiotics immediately. She was correct and I was soon on the mend. This demonstrates the necessity of a teamwork approach to healthcare and the importance of patient choice.

I have chosen to have a Naturopath as a critical part of my health care providers because I value the comprehensive approach that builds on my body's natural ability to be healthy. She supports me in practicing personal health practices - exercise, diet, stress-reduction, to help alleviate symptoms and improve emotional and mental health as well.

Oregon has one of the best, if not THE best training institution for Naturopaths in the country. It is an embarrassment that we do not fairly compensate ND's for their work.

I urge you to VOTE YES ON HB2673 to support fair compensation for Naturopathic Doctors, (NDs)

Sincerely,

Rev David T Pace
1605 NE Clackamas Street
apt 600a

Portland OR 97232