

February 22, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees,

My name is Deborah Morgan, and I am a patient of multiple Naturopathic Physicians. I would like to share my experience working with NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

Unfortunately, I have suffered for many years from a number of different chronic health conditions, and over the course of dealing with them, I have been treated by an array of doctors and other health care professionals, each of whom brought their own unique and important skills, treatments and competencies. This included General Practitioners, Specialists, and Naturopathic Doctors.

If it were not for my being able to have the choice to see all of these types of professionals, and benefit from the perspective and advice that they each bring, I would be in far worse health than I am today. A great deal of the stabilization and betterment of my medical conditions is directly attributable to the work of the Naturopathic Physicians whose care I have been under. In addition, the NDs regularly write lab orders for specialized tests that other providers don't, which often dig deeper into the underlying issues behind my illnesses than those done by any other providers, and which quite often indicate a path to healing. The contributions from the NDs have been as beneficial to me as those from any other class of physicians.

It is vital for people to be able to have the choice to access the healthcare that Naturopaths offer, especially when there is such a shortage of physicians in general. And to that end, it is essential that Naturopathic Physicians be fairly compensated so that it is not difficult for people in need of their expertise and treatments to have access to them. As the services I get from NDs are complementary to those that I receive from other medical providers and are equally important to the care I get from those other medical doctors, my belief is that they should be compensated equally and fairly.

I urge you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Deborah Morgan  
1131 Highwood Drive

Ashland, OR 97520