

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am writing to express my agreement with HB 2673 and believe Naturopath Physicians deserve the same pay as other providers.

We absolutely cherish our naturopath's entire office. The clinic has become an extension of our family where the receptionist knows us by name and the nurse knows how to calm my children during blood draws (and even how to find my tricky veins). Our naturopath sees our entire family; my husband, my six, three and one year olds and myself. Having a single provider who cares for our entire family is not only convenient, but it allows for a level of care impossible to match. Knowing our families unique medical and social history allows our provider to see us as more than a number and more than a symptom. She is able to recommend treatment options with the least amount of side effects that also fits into our family model. She is able to connect the genetic links between medical issues between our children and ourselves. She has greatly improved our health and wellbeing.

Prior to finding naturopathic care, I never felt heard or understood as a patient; I was a number, not a human. More often than not, my symptoms were treated as simply symptoms and no effort was ever made to find root causes (leading to long-term health concerns). While seeing traditional medical providers, appointments were fit in together as tight as possible and one-hour wait times were common. My doctor would have no idea who I was and would just quickly glance through my medical record prior to recommending treatments. It was common that I would leave a rushed medical appointment (often times for my young children) feeling like my concerns were not addressed and that my own opinions were ignored.

I am proud to be an equal participant in my care with my naturopath. I am now no longer afraid to ask questions, I no longer leave appointments crying, I no longer fear how myself or my autistic children will be treated when we seek medical care. Our naturopath coordinates care between specialists, often times meeting with me after a specialist's appointment to assist me in understanding how their recommendations fit into our current care plans and taking the time to explain tests and recommendations that the specialist did not have time for.

Naturopaths provide the same level (and often times higher level) of care to their patients, they deserve adequate, equitable, and fair wages. Please vote YES on HB 2673.

Sincerely,

Jessa Reinhardt