

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Serron Wilkie and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Serron Wilkie ND, LAc

As a naturopathic physician in Oregon, I am writing in support of HB2673, the Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill. I have been in practice in Forest Grove, OR for the past 16 years and, as the only naturopathic physician in town, I provide important services to those in my community seeking an individualized and inclusive type of health care. Pay parity will help me stay in business. The training I received at the National University of Natural Medicine was equivalent in clinical diagnosis, pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, pathology, and clinical training to my MD and DO colleagues; additionally, I received many more hours in training on clinical nutrition, herbology, physical medicine, minor surgery, and homeopathy. The scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Oregon puts us in the role of primary care physicians; we deserve to be paid equitably for the level of medical care we provide our patients. Please vote to pass the Naturopathic Pay Parity Bill!

Yours in health,

Crystal Hannan, ND

Dear House and Senate members-

I am a naturopathic physician, trained at National University of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon. I provided primary care services including pre-natal, post-partum, and labor and delivery services, well child visits, childhood vaccinations, well woman exams, and acute care visits. I left the practice of medicine to work for a private regulatory consulting group because insurance reimbursement was not adequate to cover the costs of living. I know of other colleagues that have had to decrease the amount of primary care patients they see and transitioned to out-of-pocket, procedure-based practices (such as aesthetic medicine) in order to make a living practicing medicine. It is unfortunate in a time when primary care providers are needed, naturopathic physicians that can provide primary care are encountering hurdles to helping the people of Oregon.

Pay parity is offered to other providers such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners but not to naturopathic physicians. As you can imagine, the lack of pay parity is a hurdle to a sustainable primary care practice for naturopathic physicians, that has the same cost of equipment, rent, etc. as other primary care providers but without the promise of pay parity. Without a doubt, there are many aspects of the health care system that need mending. However, pay parity is a seemingly simple change that will acknowledge the care naturopathic physicians provide to the people of Oregon.

I am additionally a patient of naturopathic physicians. I put the trust of my health into the hands of other naturopathic physicians. I appreciate the service they provide me but am disappointed in knowing that my insurance is not held accountable to pay parity standards with my providers.

I am asking you to vote YES on HB2673 to support pay parity for naturopathic physicians.

Sincerely- Dr. Kayla Preece

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Vanessa Lyon and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare and midwifery in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. Our clinic participates in the Vaccines For Children program, providing free vaccines to low income families or anyone that needs them. I am passionate about providing deeply meaningful care for Oregon's most vulnerable individuals. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. Though I provide care equal to that of most family practice doctors, I am paid at sometimes less than 10% of their rates. I will never be able to repay my student loans or buy a house in the community I love. The economic advantages I have are based solely on having a partner that can make this possible- it's unconscionable that Oregon insurance panels are willing to use NDs as primary care providers, but reimburse them so little.

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

Warmly,

--

Dr. Vanessa Lyon, ND
Naturopathic Physician & Midwife
Canyon Medical Center
Portland, Oregon
P. 503.252.8125
F. 503.256.8422

February 12, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 to support fair pay for Oregon Naturopathic Physicians.

The disparity between reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians on the one hand and MDs DOs, FNPs and PAs on the other has been succinctly described elsewhere (see "Commercial Health Insurance Reimbursements in Oregon Primary Care – Report on Years 2014-2016" by Jeff Clark, ND).¹

This disproportional discrepancy outlined by Dr. Clark must be corrected as it creates a business environment for Naturopathic Physicians that is untenable with success. Naturopathic medicine must be allowed to flourish as of all the professionals listed above, it is Naturopathic Doctors that are best trained to spare the State of Oregon unnecessary medical costs. Naturopathic Physicians are committed to following the tenet to "First Do No Harm". It is this principle that, when applied to patient care, provides the greatest benefit with the least potential for harm. This approach leads to improved outcomes and lower health care costs. For example, the underlying causes of conditions such as high cholesterol and diabetes are often poor diet and lifestyle factors such as lack of exercise. Changing these lifestyle factors can eliminate the need for one or more prescription medications that would typically be recommended for the rest of that patient's life.

According to the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, among the most common surgeries performed in the United States are coronary artery bypass surgery, carotid endarterectomy, and low back pain surgery.² Because NDs often promote less expensive, non-surgical options to patients earlier in the disease process, some of these expensive surgeries can be avoided. One major study investigating the effects of lifestyle improvement in patients with coronary atherosclerosis found that after only one year of following lifestyle recommendations, about 80% of participants were able to bring about plaque regression and avoid surgery without the use of lipid lowering agents.³ The study estimated that this would save almost \$30,000 per patient in the first year alone.⁴

I am using these examples to substantiate the fact that Naturopathic Physicians hold a position of consequence in the Oregon health care system and that their businesses must be permitted to flourish. Insurance reimbursement for Oregon Naturopathic Doctors has quite simply made this success extremely unlikely. Dr. Clark has established that that the single most significant factor that has prevented the Oregon community of NDs from achieving even moderate financial fluidity is the current status of insurance reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians.

Please correct this oversight, support the position that the Naturopathic community is best trained to save the State of Oregon millions of dollars of health care costs and vote in favor of HB2673.

Yours in Health,



Nicole Gansemer, ND
Bear Creek Naturopathic Clinic
Medford, Oregon

1. <https://www.naturalmedicinejournal.com/blog/how-does-naturopathic-medicine-lower-health-care-costs>
2. Stanford Health Care. General Surgery-Common Surgical Procedures. Online access: <https://stanfordhealthcare.org/medical-treatments/g/general-surgery/procedures.html>
3. Ornish D, Brown SE, Scherwitz LW, et al. Can lifestyle changes reverse coronary heart disease? The Lifestyle Heart Trial. *Lancet*. 1990;336:129-133.
4. Guarneri E, Horringan, BJ, Pechura, CM. 2010. The Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness of Integrative Medicine: A Review of the Medical and Corporate Literature. *Bravewell Collaborative Report*. June, 2010.

FROM THE DESK OF

Erin Swaidner

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Erin Swaidner and I am an Office Manager for A Balanced Life Health Care and your constituent. I would like to share my experience(s) working with an ND as a medical provider and colleague and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many naturopathic doctors in my career and have always found them to be competent, professional and focused on the welfare of their patients. They take the time to educate their patients and make sure they truly understand how to make the necessary changes in their health and routine in order to improve their situation.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for my patients to access this unique and essential level of care and limits my choices when it comes to referrals within the healthcare system.

Right now our communities need more healthcare services not less. Providing NDs with equal pay will give more people across the state of Oregon access to naturopathic care and expand the referral network to this care for providers like me.

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

Sincerely yours,

Erin Swaidner

Bill Walter ND
280 E 38th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97405
billwalter@gmail.com
206.372.8744

Date: February 1, 2021

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

Dear Oregon State House and Senate Health Care Committees,

I am a Naturopathic Physician (ND) working in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to ask for your support of HB 2673, the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill. I am currently a primary care physician working in a Federally-Qualified Health Center, but I previously ran a private practice here in Eugene, and I am intimately familiar with the challenges that a lack of pay parity creates for the doctor working in solo or small-group practice.

If you're not aware, naturopathic physicians in Oregon are licensed as primary care providers, and our education is geared towards this. We treat chronic conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, and chronic pain, as well as acute issues like Strep throat and urinary tract infections. We prescribe medication, refer to specialists, order labs and imaging, render diagnoses, and provide services such as Pap smears, immunizations, and health counseling.

Unfortunately, due to our small size as a profession, insurers have dramatically underpaid us for decades. I recall from private practice one insurer that would pay \$15 for a service that any other provider (MD, DO, or nurse practitioner) might receive \$100-200 for. Other insurers regularly paid 50-75% of what other practitioners would get for the same service. The Oregon Health Plan pays NDs comparably to other practitioner types – why can't private insurers?

This intentional underpayment of naturopathic physicians *for comparable service* creates several problems for both the doctors (almost all of them are local small business owners) and their patients. It makes it difficult to invest in additional equipment, or to hire support staff. It impacts patient choice, as many NDs choose not to contract with the most egregiously underpaying insurers. For many NDs, they move away from clinical practice entirely, choosing to work in the natural products industry rather than continue.

At a time when we have a severe primary care shortage, a massive pandemic, and an ongoing chronic pain/opiate problem, this bill is a significant step to help keep naturopathic physicians in the primary care workforce.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,

Bill Walter ND

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Carrie Baldwin-Sayre

February 10, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Carrie Baldwin-Sayre and I am the Associate Dean for Health and Wellbeing at Reed College, and a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, as well as the barriers I have faced in delivering this care. As such, I ask you to please support HB2673.

I became a physician in order to help and support my community members to become as healthy as they want to be. This is typical of naturopathic doctors who have sacrificed so much to become physicians. We love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

NDs often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. We also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, ND's teach their patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. These difficulties limited access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. Because of poor or absent insurance reimbursement, I actually left private practice and the direct care of patients! And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,



Carrie Baldwin-Sayre, ND

February 2, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Angela Cortal and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I did not get into this field to get rich. *I got into this field to help people.* To help those who feel disregarded and inadequately helped by our conventional medical model. It's not an either/or. It's a both/and.

We need both conventional medical care, and many thousands of Oregonians also need Naturopathic Doctors. But without Pay Parity, our profession faces dire uncertainty. With economic pressures exponentially mounting through this last year, *my profession needs Pay Parity in order to continue existing* in its current form in this state.

If we, as a state, want to continue offering access to Naturopathic Doctors, and have insurance coverage, ***Pay Parity is required. Now.***

In my eight years of practice, I have already been forced to cancel a few insurance contracts. When insurance companies think that I can provide care for less than minimum wage, well, that's just insulting and not a financial reality.

Without Pay Parity, it is very likely that I will have to cancel more insurance contracts. I did not start out with any intention of having a boutique/ concierge cash-only "medispa", but if the current financial reality of unfair compensation continues, I may be left with little choice if I want to keep practicing medicine in Oregon.

I want to continue serving patients, and having that care covered by insurance.

Please help me with this goal. ***Pay Parity is the only way forward.***

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

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Angela Cortal

January 28, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

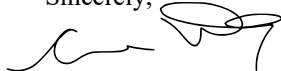
My name is Crane Holmes and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care.

I graduated in 2016 from the National University of Natural Medicine here, in Portland Oregon. Following graduation I completed 2 years of residency focusing in gastrointestinal care. After my 4 medical school and 2 years of residency, I have over \$200,000 in student loan bills. After this, I had to begin my own practice which required me to take out additional loans to furnish my office, purchase medical supplies, promote/market my business and have some money left over for groceries and housing. These costs do not include my medical license, DEA license, medical malpractice insurance, general liability insurance and my own health insurance which is not provided for me since I am self-employed.

I love being my own business owner and providing care for my patient. Many of my patients have seen doctors all over the state before seeking care from myself. Many of my patients achieve results that they have not in all of their other visits. Often, I have patients who regain their lives back after 20 plus years of digestive discomfort and embarrassment.

As a healthcare worker in the state of Oregon, I can have an impact on the health of my community and I should be equally compensated for my commitment and expertise. I am asking that you vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crane Holmes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Crane Holmes, ND



January 29, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Kathryn Mercer and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, the barriers I face in delivering this care and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people whatever situation they are coming from, and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, whether it be their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). I also make referrals to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Mercer", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kathryn Mercer

From the Desk of Dr. Sean Peter Horan ND, MS

02 February 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Sean Peter Horan, ND, MS and I am a Naturopathic Physician (ND) licensed in the State of Oregon. I would like to share my experience working in low income women's health clinic and delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I work as a Primary Care Provider (PCP) in a women's health clinic in SE Portland where I provide primary care for several hundred low income individuals. I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs of my patients, including their annual physical examinations, lab orders, health screenings, and prescription drugs, including providing a substantial amount of mental health care due to barriers patients often face in obtaining such care. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet, lifestyle, and stress management, in addition to encouraging them to become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, Naturopathic Physicians are not being equally and fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. When compensated unequally for the same exact service provided by other provider types, this makes it more difficult for me to provide the essential services I provide to so many patients, most especially now in the midst of the pandemic. For those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, afford housing in the Portland metro area, raise a family, and give back to the community.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Physicians.

In Health,

Dr. Sean Peter Horan, ND, MS

P.S. Should you have additional questions, concerns, or like to speak more about the care that I provide, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 971-258-0991

FROM THE DESK OF
Juliette Soihl, ND

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Juliette Soihl** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

Additionally, over the last year as the Corona virus pandemic has ravaged our state, it has become clear that those with comorbidities are more at risk. ND's excel at preventing and improving these comorbidities such as Diabetes, Obesity and Cardiovascular disease with diet and lifestyle modifications. If more ND's could afford to be in private practice and more organizations could employ ND's by being fairly compensated for their work, these comorbidities could be more widely addressed and the health of our state become more resilient.

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

Sincerely yours,

Juliette Soihl, ND



February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Julia Mortlock and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Julia Mortlock, ND, LAc

February 12, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 to support fair pay for Oregon Naturopathic Physicians.

The disparity between reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians on the one hand and MDs DOs, FNPs and PAs on the other has been succinctly described elsewhere (see "Commercial Health Insurance Reimbursements in Oregon Primary Care – Report on Years 2014-2016" by Jeff Clark, ND).¹

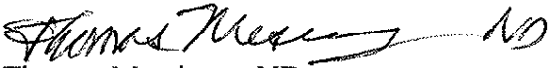
This disproportional discrepancy outlined by Dr. Clark must be corrected as it creates a business environment for Naturopathic Physicians that is untenable with success. Naturopathic medicine must be allowed to flourish as of all the professionals listed above, it is Naturopathic Doctors that are best trained to spare the State of Oregon unnecessary medical costs. Naturopathic Physicians are committed to following the tenet to "First Do No Harm". It is this principle that, when applied to patient care, provides the greatest benefit with the least potential for harm. This approach leads to improved outcomes and lower health care costs. For example, the underlying causes of conditions such as high cholesterol and diabetes are often poor diet and lifestyle factors such as lack of exercise. Changing these lifestyle factors can eliminate the need for one or more prescription medications that would typically be recommended for the rest of that patient's life.

According to the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, among the most common surgeries performed in the United States are coronary artery bypass surgery, carotid endarterectomy, and low back pain surgery.² Because NDs often promote less expensive, non-surgical options to patients earlier in the disease process, some of these expensive surgeries can be avoided. One major study investigating the effects of lifestyle improvement in patients with coronary atherosclerosis found that after only one year of following lifestyle recommendations, about 80% of participants were able to bring about plaque regression and avoid surgery without the use of lipid lowering agents.³ The study estimated that this would save almost \$30,000 per patient in the first year alone.⁴

I am using these examples to substantiate the fact that Naturopathic Physicians hold a position of consequence in the Oregon health care system and that their businesses must be permitted to flourish. Insurance reimbursement for Oregon Naturopathic Doctors has quite simply made this success extremely unlikely. Dr. Clark has established that that the single most significant factor that has prevented the Oregon community of NDs from achieving even moderate financial fluidity is the current status of insurance reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians.

Please correct this oversight, support the position that the Naturopathic community is best trained to save the State of Oregon millions of dollars of health care costs and vote in favor of HB2673.

Yours in Health,


Thomas Messinger, ND
Bear Creek Naturopathic Clinic
Medford, Oregon

1. <https://www.naturalmedicinejournal.com/blog/how-does-naturopathic-medicine-lower-health-care-costs>
2. Stanford Health Care. General Surgery-Common Surgical Procedures. Online access: <https://stanfordhealthcare.org/medical-treatments/g/general-surgery/procedures.html>
3. Ornish D, Brown SE, Scherwitz LW, et al. Can lifestyle changes reverse coronary heart disease? The Lifestyle Heart Trial. *Lancet*. 1990;336:129-133.
4. Guarneri E, Horrigan, BJ, Pechura, CM. 2010. The Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness of Integrative Medicine: A Review of the Medical and Corporate Literature. *Bravewell Collaborative Report*. June, 2010.



Dr. Michael McKee
Kwan-Yin Healing Arts Center
2330 NW Flanders, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon, 97210
Phone: (503) 701-8766
mmckee@kwanyinhealingartscenter.com



February 4, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Michael McKee and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael McKee ND LAc

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Melissa Kuser

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Melissa Kuser and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

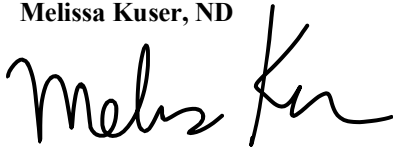
I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings and prescriptions. I perform well-woman exams and collaborate with gynecology colleagues for management of patients with need for interventions like colposcopy, LEEP or IUD insertions. I also make referrals to all other specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Melissa Kuser, ND

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Kuser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FROM THE DESK OF

Margaret Burkes, ND

February 2, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Margaret Burkes and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Burkes, ND

FROM THE DESK OF

Julie V. Kahn, ND, LAc

February 12, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Julie V. Kahn and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have been practicing primary care in Portland, Oregon as an ND since 1999. I became an ND because it was my dream to be able to provide quality health care for all people. When choosing a profession, I decided to become an ND (over other health care professions) because I wanted to learn to support the health of my community using tools like nutrition and exercise to enhance the medically accepted current practice of medicine.

In my day to day primary care practice, I treat patients as most other primary care provider types might. I diagnose and treat a wide array of health conditions. I also see to my patients' preventative health needs, such as providing screening physical exams and ordering lab work and imaging. As that my practice closely follows the accepted medical guidelines of care, I write prescriptions, and make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition to general primary care, I have experience and extra study in woman's medicine and serve as a resource for providing these procedures for patients referred by their PCP's.

Many of my patients have told me that they choose me as their primary care provider because they feel that I listen to their concerns, that I truly care about their well being. Others choose me because in addition to being able to take care of their routine primary care needs, I have a background in natural medicine and can answer patient's questions about diet, exercise, and nutrition. I do think it is important to take the time to properly educate patients about their health conditions and treatment options, risks and benefits, and answer all of their questions thoroughly. Many patients have commented that they feel more comfortable having their care in a small office like mine.

Currently, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. Although I love the work that I do to help people live their healthiest lives, this is an ever more significant barrier for me to stay in practice. The great disparity in pay makes it difficult for me to continue to serve our community in this way. I despair as that in spite of having a healthy and mature practice (my schedule and my associate's schedule are usually full, we watch costs to keep our overhead as low as possible), it is very difficult to cover our costs and compensate our staff and ourselves fairly no matter how hard we work. With the rising costs in Portland in recent years, this is becoming even more difficult. I feel this

despair more acutely as that we have felt it was our duty to continue to serve our patients as that they depend on us for their primary care needs, even in the face of this pandemic. We continued to care for our patients in this poignant year, even when it meant not being compensated at all for our work (there was a short period of time before it was known if telemedicine would be reimbursed but after the public was warned to shelter in place when we conducted much of our work by telephone - we did not stop serving our patients as that they still had medications that needed to be prescribed, symptoms that needed to be assessed, as well as other important needs). We continue to care for our patients at times via telemedicine, and when needed, face to face in the office, even though it puts our own health at risk. We did this because this is the duty of a primary care provider. As that I have all of the responsibilities and risks of any other primary care provider, the great disparity in pay has become nearly untenable for me.

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

Sincerely yours,

Julie V. Kahn, ND, LAc.

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Emily Livengood

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Emily Livengood and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience practicing in Bend, Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Emily Livengood

FROM THE DESK OF

Elizabeth Sutherland, ND

February 11, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Elizabeth Sutherland. I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, as well as the barriers I face in delivering this care.

I ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health. **And, if you'd kindly take a moment to search PubMed, you would see how substantial the evidence base is for a growing number of our therapeutic approaches.**

Unfortunately, NDs are not fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay our **enormous student loans**, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Sutherland

FROM THE DESK OF

Harmony Layne, ND

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Harmony Layne and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Harmony Layne, ND

Naturopathic Physician

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Sara Rapaport, ND, LMT

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Sara Rapaport** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Sara Rapaport

Children's Naturopathic Centre

4444 S Corbett Ave, Portland OR 97239

503-224-2590 //admin@nd4kids.com

February 22nd, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Dr. Sarah McAllister and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I chose to become a naturopathic doctor to offer integrative health care to children who have chronic health issues. These are children, who often have multiple providers and significant health concerns. I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings and prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Sarah McAllister

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Brittany Long

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Brittany Long and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I not only became a physician, but specifically a naturopathic physician because I truly love helping people and this is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I truly strive to embody the tenants of naturopathic medicine including do not harm, educating the patient so as to best help them understand what is going on, connect with them so they feel they have a partner in their health care, not a “dictator,” put the individual first, treat the entire person, not just symptoms and to prevent illness when possible and modify disease courses when prevention was/is not possible or was missed.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings, prescriptions and necessary referrals when necessary and indicated. In addition, I educated my patients every step of the way whether it be in regards to their disease processes, diet and nutrition, how to stay active, the effects of stress and how to manage it, how to improve their sleep, how to manage their pain without opioids or surgery (if applicable and acceptable) and most importantly how to become more proactive in their own healthcare so as to ultimately reduce their morbidity, mortality and to improve their overall quality of life. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health and ultimately also help to reduce their need to utilize higher cost and higher-intervention services.

Despite all that we as NDs provide not only to our patients, but to the medical community, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

With all of this in mind, I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors and should you ever have any questions or wonder about naturopathic medicine, what it can provide and how it varies from the practice of other medical providers, I am always happy to have a conversation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brittany Long

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Long ND". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FROM THE DESK OF
Hyeyeon Kim

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Hyeyeon Kim** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Hyeyeon Kim, ND, LAc^{oo}

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Colleen Amann-Shah

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Colleen Amann-Shah and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Colleen Amann-Shah, ND



16144 SE Happy Valley Town Center Drive, Suite 214 Happy Valley, OR 97086
Ph: 503 658 7715 Fax: 503 658 7181

February 7, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dr. Kara Crisp and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care. Please consider the following points as you discuss HB2673:

- **I attended a 4 year, accredited medical school here in Oregon, the same as our conventional colleagues, Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteopathy. I have a Bachelor's of Science in Microbiology and worked for 5 years in the pharmaceutical industry prior to choosing to attend Naturopathic Medical school.**
- **NDs are seen as peers and partners in healthcare delivery. I get referrals weekly from MD's and DO's.**
- **I have a busy practice based in Happy Valley, OR. I seem to attract the patients that conventional doctors do not have many answers for. The chronically unwell patients that appear normal on conventional labs are repeatedly given answers and hope when they work with me, a story shared by many ND colleagues.**
- **As an ND in Oregon, I am quite busy at this time. I am one of the only providers that accepts medicaid and treats complex gastrointestinal patients, Lyme disease, and mold illness.**
- **Reimbursement rates are not sustainable at this time. I may be forced to quit accepting insurance after this year unless we see a change.**
- **Hundreds of patients will be left without a provider if reimbursement rates are not increased and made fair.**
- **I face many hardships at this time. I am unable to afford a medical assistant, for example to help reduce my work load outside of office hours.**
- **It is important for patients to have the right to choose their type of provider. I cannot tell you how many times I've heard a patient tell me that they have "never told this to any other provider." The unique relationship a ND is able to make with a patient because we are asking about their entire health history and tend to spend more time with patients allows for a deeper level of healing and improvement of their health conditions.**

I am asking that you vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kara Crisp

FROM THE DESK OF

Debbie Rouse Harriman

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Debbie Rouse Harriman** and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

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

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Debbie Rouse Harriman

FROM THE DESK OF

Amanda Goodwin

February 2, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Amanda Goodwin and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. I was able to recover from Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) caused by food poisoning, because my ND was more knowledgeable than the MDs I sought help from. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to health in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

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

Sincerely yours,

Amanda Goodwin

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Emma Baker ND

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Dr. Emma Baker ND** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Emma Baker ND

www.dremmabaker.com

Bend, Oregon

Dr Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO

Naturopathic Cancer Specialist

Wholistic and Integrative care.



1836 NE 7th Ave, Ste #205 | Portland Oregon 97212 | 503.206.6218 | sagecancercare.com

January 31, 2021

HB2673, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dr. Eliot Edwards and I am a Naturopathic Doctor and a Fellow of the American Board of Naturopathic Oncology (FABNO). My practice is focused on integrative oncology care, where I work collaboratively with my medical oncologist colleagues (MDs/DOs) to provide support for patients fighting cancer.

I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, the barriers I face in delivering this care and ask you to please support HB2673. My patients rely on my care to help make their cancer treatments tolerable – minimizing common side effects and maintaining their quality of life, during otherwise incredibly challenging treatments.

One challenge for many patients, however, is the limited coverage many insurance policies provide for naturopathic physicians. Some of these plans limit reimbursement, specifically for naturopathic physicians, despite NDs being fully licensed and recognized physicians in the state of Oregon. This makes it more difficult for doctors like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential care for patients fighting cancer. In turn, it limits access to healthcare for many individuals and families when naturopathic doctors are forced to opt out of accepting these insurances who reimburse NDs significantly less than other doctors and mid-level providers (NPs, PAs). And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, buy a house, raise a family and give back to the community.

My wife, daughter and I moved back to Oregon in 2017. My wife is also a naturopathic physician. We moved back here from Illinois largely because naturopathic physicians are fully licensed and highly integrated into the medical system in this state. Despite that recognition, discrimination in the form of poor reimbursement continues even here in Oregon through unfair practices by the insurance companies. Please help us change this issue.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO

February 12, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 to support fair pay for Oregon Naturopathic Physicians.

The disparity between reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians on the one hand and MDs DOs, FNPs and PAs on the other has been succinctly described elsewhere (see "Commercial Health Insurance Reimbursements in Oregon Primary Care – Report on Years 2014-2016" by Jeff Clark, ND).¹

This disproportional discrepancy outlined by Dr. Clark must be corrected as it creates a business environment for Naturopathic Physicians that is untenable with success. Naturopathic medicine must be allowed to flourish as of all the professionals listed above, it is Naturopathic Doctors that are best trained to spare the State of Oregon unnecessary medical costs. Naturopathic Physicians are committed to following the tenet to "First Do No Harm". It is this principle that, when applied to patient care, provides the greatest benefit with the least potential for harm. This approach leads to improved outcomes and lower health care costs. For example, the underlying causes of conditions such as high cholesterol and diabetes are often poor diet and lifestyle factors such as lack of exercise. Changing these lifestyle factors can eliminate the need for one or more prescription medications that would typically be recommended for the rest of that patient's life.

According to the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, among the most common surgeries performed in the United States are coronary artery bypass surgery, carotid endarterectomy, and low back pain surgery.² Because NDs often promote less expensive, non-surgical options to patients earlier in the disease process, some of these expensive surgeries can be avoided. One major study investigating the effects of lifestyle improvement in patients with coronary atherosclerosis found that after only one year of following lifestyle recommendations, about 80% of participants were able to bring about plaque regression and avoid surgery without the use of lipid lowering agents.³ The study estimated that this would save almost \$30,000 per patient in the first year alone.⁴

I am using these examples to substantiate the fact that Naturopathic Physicians hold a position of consequence in the Oregon health care system and that their businesses must be permitted to flourish. Insurance reimbursement for Oregon Naturopathic Doctors has quite simply made this success extremely unlikely. Dr. Clark has established that that the single most significant factor that has prevented the Oregon community of NDs from achieving even moderate financial fluidity is the current status of insurance reimbursements for Naturopathic Physicians.

Please correct this oversight, support the position that the Naturopathic community is best trained to save the State of Oregon millions of dollars of health care costs and vote in favor of HB2673.

Yours in Health,



2/12/2021

Daniel N. Smith, ND
Bear Creek Naturopathic Clinic
Medford, Oregon

1. <https://www.naturalmedicinejournal.com/blog/how-does-naturopathic-medicine-lower-health-care-costs>
2. Stanford Health Care. General Surgery-Common Surgical Procedures. Online access: <https://stanfordhealthcare.org/medical-treatments/g/general-surgery/procedures.html>
3. Ornish D, Brown SE, Scherwitz LW, et al. Can lifestyle changes reverse coronary heart disease? The Lifestyle Heart Trial. *Lancet*. 1990;336:129-133.
4. Guarneri E, Horringan, BJ, Pechura, CM. 2010. The Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness of Integrative Medicine: A Review of the Medical and Corporate Literature. *Bravewell Collaborative Report*. June, 2010.

February 2, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emily Wolbers, and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care.

I graduated in 2018 from the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland Oregon. I've insured nearly \$200,000 in student loan bills from this endeavor: a burden I was willing to bear because I trusted I would be reimbursed for my practice while serving the community. Little did I know that naturopathic doctors are reimbursed a mere fraction of our counterparts in the MD, NP, and PA community.

Naturopathic medicine is a different medicine. We spend at least 30 minutes with our patients to ensure our patients are fully seen and heard. Our medicine treats the root cause of health concerns, rather than placing a temporary fix. Many of my patients achieve results that they have not in all of their other medical visits. We deserve to be compensated as such.

As a healthcare worker in the state of Oregon, I can have an impact on the health of my community, and I should be equally compensated for my commitment and expertise. I am asking that you vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Emily Wolbers

January 29, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is **Suzanne Scopes** and I have been a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) in Oregon since 1986. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, the barriers I face in delivering this care and ask you to please support HB2673.

I see my role as more than just a primary care physician. I partner with my patients to both treat and prevent illness. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I take seriously the "doctor as teacher" tenet of naturopathic medicine. By doing this, we lower health care costs to the system through prevention and empowerment of patients to make healthy changes.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, whether it be their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). I also make referrals to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for ND's to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community. In fact, the cost of a naturopathic medical degree is similar to an MD or DO degree, but compensation once in practice falls far short of our peers.

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

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne Scopes, ND

FROM THE DESK OF

Katherine Souza, ND, LAc

January 29, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is **Katherine Souza** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, the barriers I face in delivering this care and ask you to please support HB2673.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people whatever situation they are coming from, and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, whether it be their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). I also make referrals to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Souza, ND, LAc

**511 SW 10th Ave, Ste 1107
Portland, OR 97205**