

Dear Oregon Senators and Health Care Committee Members,

I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician (NP) in Oregon writing to urge you to vote 'YES' on HB 2673, the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill.

I have a chronic health condition that involves multiple systems including my joints, muscles, and connective tissues; my autonomic nervous and digestive systems; and my allergy and inflammatory response—all of which interact with my regular hormonal fluctuation.

After years of little to no help with Medical Doctors (MDs), I found the Naturopathic Physician approach finally put me on a path to managing what had become a debilitating constellation of symptoms.

Naturopathic Physicians are trained in modalities that account for multiple systems and in some cases are the only doctors who have successfully treated complex and multi-system cases such as mine. Many patients like me who have found little success with traditional MDs have found a restored quality of life with the integrated approach offered by NPs.

Unlike traditional MDs who focus on singular diseases and rely heavily on prescribing pharmaceuticals, NPs take the time to do a detailed and thorough health history that enables them to support a variety of health systems in your treatment plan. In my case, this means treatments as varied as a lymphatic pump, a low-histamine diet, hormone regulation, and physical therapy in addition to pharmaceuticals. This approach is labor-intensive on the part of the NP, but pays off greatly in the quality of care received by patients.

Given how much I have benefitted, I am deeply concerned that NPs are reimbursed at a fraction of what MDs are for work that by many measures is more rigorous. The work NPs do is invaluable for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, myself included.

My health, mobility, and symptom management have all been increased through work with Naturopathic Physicians. I urge you to support those who have supported me and vote 'YES' on HB 2673, the Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Lana M. Gold

Portland, OR

Dear Oregon Senators and Health Care Committee Members,

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

I had symptoms that regular, mainstream doctors could not diagnose and even gave me a misdiagnosis. I spent a long time suffering as a result. When I finally saw a naturopath, I discovered I had an immune disorder. Since then, I was given a protocol, with the use of naturopath techniques, which enabled me to not only deal with the symptoms but causes.

I am writing this email to tell NDs are just as qualified and as important, if not more than a regular MD and should be able to get the same pay as one. There are more reasons for this not just quality of care. It is also important to have choice in care and not protecting NDs ability to provide quality care, due to lack in pay by insurance companies, which are the real problem with our healthcare system (including unnecessarily high medical costs in mainstream medicine itself) as regular MDs have, threatens this choice.

From a political standpoint, a free market is essential for a healthy economy and society. If you allow protections for only one type of physician you are in all intents and purposes supporting a one size fits all system that does not encourage what our democratic forefathers had intelligently intended relating to all of our God given rights, sovereignty over our own lives and the choices we make. These choices should be protected so that in competition itself, the discipline of medical science is not stifled to one viewpoint, or one type of doctor.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Anna Dell'Arciprete

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Megan Fisher McNabb 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 see both a naturopath for my general health as well as a midwife for my gynecological needs. I also used my midwife for the birth of my child at Canyon Medical Center, and these women continue to serve my family as our primary care providers (I trust them the most for my daughters' postpartum and pediatric care).

I grew up struggling with my health & seeing general practitioners that, in my experience, did not listen to me. I had open-heart surgery as a young child and I had thyroid surgery a few years later. I am eternally grateful for the care I received from those surgeons & doctors, however, as I became a woman & went to seek care on my own I noticed time and time again that I had to aggressively advocate for myself in order to be acknowledged or heard by doctors & gynecologists. My health continued to get worse as I went undiagnosed with autoimmune thyroid disease.

It wasn't until I finally found a naturopath who helped me figure out why I was so fatigued and why nothing was working to get my thyroid levels in a normal range. The naturopath I finally found just 2 years ago changed my life by truly listening to my issues and using Chinese medicine methods, as well as western to get my levels back to normal for the first time in over a decade. Through acupuncture and her guidance she also helped me get pregnant with my daughter after struggling for several months due to my thyroid levels being unpredictable.

At the beginning of my pregnancy I started care at a midwifery clinic located in a Portland hospital. Mid-way through my pregnancy I decided to seek care elsewhere, as I did not feel heard at all. Every time I had a visit I was asked redundant questions as if the staff had no idea who I was, even though I had been going weekly for several months! I voiced that I wanted to try natural labor and one nurse scoffed at me. I got a referral from a client to a birthing center and never looked back. The level of care I received was incredible, including postpartum. I had a truly wonderful birthing experience that was safe and calm, even in a pandemic.

All of the women who helped me are naturopathic physicians and deserve to be compensated for their passion, talent, dedication, professionalism, knowledge and skill. I truly hope the tables start turning and this type of care becomes more valued because I don't know where I'd be without it.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Megan Fisher McNabb, Brodie McNabb and Iris McNabb.

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Leeza Steindorf 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.

Thanks to the knowledge and treatment of my naturopath, I have not only stopped antibiotic treatment for Lyme's disease, she has helped e completely eliminate any symptoms whatsoever. Anyone with knowledge of this disease will know that is almost not possible. And, yet, here I am today, healthy and strong, fit and pain-free. That was not possible from years of traditional medical care. This recovery is completely due to the treatment of a naturopath who has studied the interactive nature of the body, with its environment and with agents impacting our physical being.

Given that I would still be burdening an already broken "health care" system if I had not received the treatment from a naturopath, and have, therefore, saved the system enormous amounts of money (that would be \$\$\$) and time, there is zero reason why naturopaths are compensated less than other providers. Can you please tell me why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Leeza Steindorf, Director

Core Success LLC

My name is Candice Arditi 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 have worked with an ND for about 10 years. I had been struggling with infertility and had not been feeling well for a couple of years and was discouraged by treatments that modern medicine was providing me. I was referred to an ND who took the time to listen to all of my symptoms and ran the proper tests and later diagnosed me with PCOS. This has literally changed my life. We worked as a team to implement the right plan that has led me to a healthy life.

The one thing I find most important and best about working with an ND is being a part of the plan and the discussions. I have felt like I am a part of the solution and am given a voice in my own care.

There was one specific Medical Doctor that I was seeing and every time I would visit her it would always come back to losing weight. How I needed to do it and what I should be doing. I was so discouraged. My ND started with the conversation about my body and self image. She educated me around my diagnosis of PCOS and how to nourish my body to support it. We worked together to find the right treatment plan. I was provided modern medicine options along with options for a holistic approach. I was given the opportunity to be a voice for my own care. I will forever be grateful to her for helping me through the journey to a healthier me.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Candice Arditi

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Monique Hale 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.

Working with Naturopathic Doctors (ND) has improved mine and my family's lives. We no longer are limited by only having pharmaceutical drugs available to us. Since seeing NDs, we are now aware of homeopathic and herbal remedies that not only has helped us, but has done so without side effects.

I also appreciate the bedside manner and physical and mental health support that I have received from my NDs that I do not receive from other medical professionals. My NDs are able to spend more time with me during appointments and they also take an interest in my lifestyle and general wellbeing including structural and mental health. When I see other medical professionals, they are only interested in my primary complaint and are not interested in the whole picture.

Naturopathic health care has availed my and my family to alternative medicine and treatments that really work for us and has vastly improved our lives.

My only complaint with Naturopathic medicine is the cost and the lack of or limited insurance coverage. My family ends up paying for most services and supplements out of pocket. It is a huge expense to use and has brought upon significant debt. If it was more affordable and/or better covered by insurance, it would ease the burden on my family.

Traditional healthcare limits the amount of supports and treatments available. Supplements, tinctures, chiropractic adjustments, and homeopathic remedies widens the possibilities of improved health immensely.

I see a ND for many things...

1. Mental health

2. Immune health
3. Chiropractic care
4. General physical health

Naturopathic health has helped me in ways that traditional medicine has not. With a simple cold, I used to get very ill and miss about 3-5 days of work. I was dependent upon cold medicines (i.e. Tylenol cold and Mucinex). These medications made me drowsy and even vomit. My immune system would be so weakened that I would need a day or two to recover even after the virus had left my body. Since receiving Naturopathic care I now can have a cold without being bedridden. Remedies such as immune support tinctures and "wet socks" not only helps me to recover more quickly but I rarely ever feel actually sick. (If you have never heard of "wet socks" I suggest you look it up. It seems weird but actually works.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Monique Hale  
(707) 498-9699

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am writing in support of HB 2673, parity pay for Naturopathic Physicians. I am not in any way connected to the naturopathic community except as a very grateful recipient of good naturopathic health care.

Twenty years ago, as a middle-aged mother of three school-aged children, I developed a set of concerning symptoms which lead my medical team to order a series of tests and scans. The results were inconclusive as to diagnosis, and I was sent home with a prescription, which I did not fill. Instead I visited a naturopathic physician at the suggestion of a friend, who was a nurse. Ten minutes into my appointment, the ND made a dietary recommendation which I continue to follow today. My symptoms resolved within a few months, and in 20 years they have not returned.

Last year, I went to the emergency room with upper right quadrant pain and was told that I needed to have my gall bladder removed. I refused the surgery and called my ND. I followed her guidelines, my pain is gone, and I was able to avoid surgery and its associated risks.

These are just a couple of examples of how I have used naturopathic medicine to support my health.

Naturopathic medicine is an important specialty. Naturopathic doctors are highly educated and have medical training in areas that are not taught to MDs. Both methods of treatment, those of NDs and MDs, play an important role in overall healthcare. It follows then that insurance companies should reimburse NDs on par with MDs.

Please vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Marian Williams



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

I love the treatment & knowledge I receive from my Oregon Naturopathic doctor & he deserves to be paid fairly.

Thank you.  
Kathy Elsee  
1218 Alvarado Ter  
Walla Walla WA. 99362

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Mayann Stevens and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. They deserve equal pay as they are a asset to our community and health.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Mayann Stevens

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Austin McRobbie 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.

My family and I have seen naturopaths in Beaverton, Oregon for over sixe years, and the whole experience has been very positive. They have helped us through two births and several minor illnesses. I very much appreciate the holistic and preventative focus of care - I have personally found to it be much more helpful than seeing an MD.

Looking at the health care system as a whole, it's important for patients to be able to choose naturopaths.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Austin McRobbie

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Amber Hensley and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I have been seeing an ND for quite a while now, and the care I have received is above any care I have ever received. My mom passed away from breast cancer when I was 17, so I spent a lot of time during the last month of her life in a hospital. Since that time, I have had trouble wanting to go to doctor checkups in a hospital. I have found it to be more comfortable for me to visit my ND in the clinic I go to for care. I feel reassured knowing that my ND will always help treat my illness or concerns with natural options first. So this makes me wonder, why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? Please help this change!

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Amber Hensley

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Reed Coleman 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 love my Naturopath's approach to my health. She uses her excellent knowledge of Eastern medicine teachings, focusing on how my body is processing food (which affects everything else!), and combines that with the best of Western medicine's insight into modern technology and medications. When I first saw my

Naturopath, I had a common but debilitating thyroid issue, which had been misdiagnosed by my traditional Western medicine physician. I felt immediately at ease and well cared for. I am in the best shape and health of my life after more than a decade with my Naturopath.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Reed Coleman  
Portland

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Coral West 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.

My Naturopath has been integral to my self care. My naturopath provides a higher level of expertise than my regular physician. She has a professional understanding of both traditional and naturopathic care, where my regular physician has a very narrow understanding of my health. I have made more progress working with my naturopath than I ever have through "traditional" treatment.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Coral West

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My name is Tabitha Gardner 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 have four beautiful girls between ages 14 and under a year old. 10+ years ago I would only see a pediatrician for my kids and I had horrible experiences there sadly parents who choose to use alternative to pharmaceuticals and like to have other opinions and like to have natural alternatives get treated poorly at typical pediatrician offices I was treated so badly that I didn't even go seek medical attention for my kids which they were never sick so I didn't need it but they didn't see a doctor for many years until I discovered natural path and my insurance covered it I have been so pleased my kids who before were sick with air infections and colds and flu's all the time (under a MD care) now are never sick and if they ever do need anything we're able to treat it naturally my doctor and I have come up with a great plan for each one of my kids and I feel like I get individualize care these doctors are amazing and they deserve just as much or more pay than any other doctor in any practice. Thank you for reading this please vote in favor of natural paths.

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*Tabitha Johnston*

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Mariana 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 have seen a ND since I was six years old. The care I have received from the different ND's over the last 21 years has provided immense preventative care. I rely on my ND more than any other doctor. I value their attention to my medical needs beyond prescription drugs they work hard to take natural routes that help my body without negative side effects. There are many "small" problems that I have tried to address with MD's, but my words fall on deaf ears. They excuse my issues as being "normal". Our bodies display signs of abnormalities in our bodies to indicate something is wrong. Such as swollen lymph nodes can indicate a weakened immune system from allergies or a virus. Medical doctors are aware of this, but can't do anything to help. Natural Doctors dig deeper to figure out why your body is displaying the issues and how to help amend the problem. Natural doctors have helped prevent colds, flus, insomnia, hyperactivity, even type two diabetes. I have witnessed it first hand in myself and my family and friends. For this reason I believe everyone should see a ND.

Unfortunately not everyone is able to see Natural Doctors due to insurance. In my opinion that is unjust. Everyone has the right to receive natural medical help that can aid them in more gentle and preventive healthcare than Medical Doctors. Not only should have access to Natural Doctors, but ND's should be compensated as equally as Medical doctors. I've received more treatment with more thorough examinations and care from Natural Doctors than any other doctors.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Mariana Morrison

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Cynthia Tew 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 and what value it's patients see in this profession and how important and passionate we are about keeping this healthcare option.

My experience working with a Naturopathic Physician has always given me better results, less negative side effects, and they always have excellent results.

I appreciate all that a Naturopathic Physicians have to offer and they provide a great service for health that you can't compare the results.

Naturopathic Patric Care is invaluable to all their patients and especially to me, we trust them and have seen amazing results. They are well educated and use science and natural remedies to provide better care than any and all regular Non-Naturopathic Physicians.

It's all about the patient and we have the constitutional right to have the choice and option to go to a Naturopathic Physician.

We need the insurance to cover these appointments to receive the care we deserve and coverage and having them receive equal pay with ensure that they continue in their field of work and that we can actually receive this amazing and higher healthcare.

I see a Naturopath Physician because they have been able to help care for myself and my family and help me when no one else was able to give a diagnosis or a cure. We trust them and feel confident in their training. We won't go to anyone else before going to these professionals.

I am healthy and have optimal health thanks to Naturopathic Medicine!

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Tew

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Hello,  
Please support HB2673. Just as women should have pay parity for equal work, so should naturopaths.  
Thank you,  
Lockett Taylor

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Naturopathic doctors, are in my experience far more efficacious than conventionally trained doctors and they invest more in each patient. In my experience, doctors always prescribe a pill when even a simple home remedy, like increasing magnesium, or taking cod liver oil, would actually solve the problem...the pills they give have SERIOUS consequences - think of the opiod crisis...

It is outrageous that Naturopathic doctors are compensated even less than PAs and Nurses. This needs to change.

**HOLLY E. HAGERMAN**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Kindra McRobbie 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.

Our family of 4, soon to be 5, have been seeing our naturopaths for the past 6 years, and have received nothing less than exceptional care. They are available, attentive, and involved in our care in ways that larger facilities can not be. They have always been active participants in our healthcare conversation, rather than coming with hard set thing that we must adhere to despite reservations we may have.

Providing patients with options to see a naturopath who can provide alternatives to the traditional care model is an essential piece of the healthcare picture, and if they were forced to close due to less pay it would be a detrimental loss to the community at large.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Kindra McRobbie

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Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Lane and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. My family and I see NDs to support whole body health at every stage of life.

NDs are so valuable in our community as they provide thorough, holistic, preventive care the eases the burden on a health care system that specializes in acute care and treating chronic illness with life-long pharmaceuticals. We see this so clearly during this pandemic that we need more doctors supporting patients whole bodies, helping reverse chronic illness and guiding their patients to a state of resilience rather than reliance exclusively on acute and urgent care.

The doctors that offer alternatives to standard care are so critical and should be supported in every way. Access to this care needs to be improved dramatically!

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Lane Sherman

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Jessica Clarke and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience with an ND as a primary medical provider and ask you to consider supporting HB 2673.

I have recently been informed the compensation for an ND is 30-60 percent less than MDs, DOs, Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants. This came as a surprise as I have seeked naturopathic care for their expertise in the holistic and caring approach for medical treatment.

For 12 years I have struggled with the want to feel healthy and that how I currently feel is not normal. For 12 years I have been given 10-15 minutes at a time to speak with an MD or NP to state my case of why I don't feel good to later be given medication and sent on my way.

The ND working with me to reach my full health potential takes the time to listen to my health concerns. Not only does she take the time, she continues to follow up and troubleshoot when treatment is not working.

The care, compassion, and knowledge provided by my ND is exceptional and I believe the pay scale for the services should reflect equally to MDs and DOs who provide the same medical care with a fraction of the compassion.

I am asking you to consider voting yes on HB 2673 to support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jessica Clarke

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Angi Ford and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor Rebecca Sand 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 been working on resolving some health issues for over 15 years with many types of medical providers, and none (other than my nutritionist) 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, which is why it's taken me over 15 years to finally get some resolution!

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,  
Angi Ford

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is April Johnson, I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

My two children and I have seen a Naturopathic Physician as our Primary Care Provider for eight years. Our ND manages the full range of our health needs from well visits to vaccines, orders for lab work and prescriptions.

I chose to switch to an ND from our previous GP because I wanted a doctor with a holistic approach, who would look at our complete health picture and who would incorporate research backed approaches from Eastern and herbal medicine, rather than being limited to Western medicine with a heavy reliance on antibiotics which, as you should know, have been over-prescribed. Too many times, Western doctors had told me there was no solution to my ailments if there was not a pill that could be prescribed for it.

I have received incomparable care from my ND. She spends 45 minutes of her time with me during every appointment exploring beyond my presenting issue to get a complete picture of my health. If she doesn't know an answer, she will research it while I am in her office. She remains focused on only the most well-researched and science backed medical treatments and she empowers me to make choices about my healthcare.

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.

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

Sincerely,

April Johnson  
Portland, OR 97218

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Carrie Taylor 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.

Receiving naturopathic care has changed my life and understanding of preventative medicine. Instead of waiting until one is sick, there are steps a patient can take to intervene to maintain good health. Naturopathic care does just that! This type of care saves so much money in the long run, while also maintaining good health.

Everyone should have access to proper naturopathic care through insurance so they have access to maintaining proper health and our naturopathic care providers should be paid accordingly. The pay for Naturopathic care providers should be compensated at the same rate, if not more, than other medical care providers.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Carrie Taylor

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,  
My name is **Jon Holt** 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,

Jon Holt

826 NE 63rd Ave.

Portland OR 97213

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Sophie Elliot 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 delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

I have been treated by many types of medical providers and every experience has paled in comparison to being treated by an ND. After years of frustration with the very limited solutions MD's had to offer me, combined with their fragmented approach to healing, I finally found the kind of health care I had desperately been searching for when I was referred to a Naturopathic Doctor.

My experience with health care in the past has been a tragic story of MD after MD writing endless prescriptions for pills. Regardless of the ailment, the solution offered was always a prescription. Starting at the age of fifteen, MDs began prescribing me narcotics. After a decade of battling an opioid addiction, that was fully supported/supplied by MDs, I ended up in an inpatient rehab facility. Following rehab, I lived in fear of health care providers and our health care system in general. Receiving care from an ND restored my faith in the health care system. For once in my life I felt like my doctor was taking the time to actually listen to me and treat my entire body versus isolating one part as if all of my parts are not intricately connected.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings, or prescriptions. She refers me to other qualified providers when appropriate. She has taught me about diet, nutrition, exercise, stress management, and healthy sleep habits so that I have the power to be proactive in my own health care and avoid prescription medication as much as possible.

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

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

Sincerely yours,  
Sophie Elliot

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Christopher McHenry and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I started going to my ND (Dr. Sara Hopkins in Portland, Oregon) about 7 years ago. I was experiencing some chronic health problems and some depression/anxiety. After years of seeking help through traditional (allopathic) medicine, I decided to try naturopathic

medicine, partly out of desperation. I had the most amazing experience with the naturopathic treatments prescribed by Dr. Hopkins. I can unequivocally say that the care Dr. Hopkins has given me over the years has led to the best health, both physically and mentally, that I have ever experienced.

I find that naturopathic medicine takes a more holistic, whole-person approach. When I go to a naturopath, I feel heard, seen, and understood, and I feel that my health issues are looked at in a broad and connecting way that takes many things into account. The human body and its ailments are complex, involving both body and mind. In contrast, when I used to go to a regular allopathic doctor, the examination was always extremely fast and cursory: a quick diagnosis with little input sought from me about what was going on. It was always like putting a quick bandage on the issue.

I am deeply grateful to have access to naturopathic care. Naturopathic medicine is deeply rooted in science and NDs receive first rate training, such as from our own National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM) here in Portland. Patients should have a choice about whether they want to go to a Naturopathic Doctor or an allopathic doctor, and these types of practice should be treated equally. Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are paid between 30-70% of what Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and MDs/DOs are paid for the same exact work. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,  
Christopher McHenry

(971) 400-1648

5020 N. Syracuse St.  
Portland, OR 97203

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Cathy DeVault 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,

**Cathy DeVault**

Cell: 425-260-6839

[devaultcathy@gmail.com](mailto:devaultcathy@gmail.com)

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Joan O'Neal 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,

**Joan O'Neal**

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Celeste Roam**, 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.

Wishing you great health and abundance!

Celeste Roam

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Caylie Seeger 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,  
Caylie Seeger

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Christopher LaRose 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 have been a patient of a naturopathic doctor for several years. She has helped me successfully manage a complex and difficult set of symptoms around Lyme Disease and its associated side effects.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher LaRose  
1211 NE Faloma Road  
Portland, OR 97211

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Caroline Koester 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 received the best medical care of my life with my naturopathic physician. Her office is warm and friendly, quite a bit less sterile and cold as most physician's offices. This has



been particularly helpful when it comes time for gynecological care that can feel invasive and sensitive. These visits now feel like a nurturing way to take care of myself rather than an invasive procedure that creates more tension and discomfort.

Likewise, through my Naturopathic Doctor, I have had greater access to herbal and supplemental methods of treatment that have proven to be significantly more effective than allopathic methods. I greatly value having access to Naturopathic Medicine as my primary care.

I'm wondering, why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Caroline Koester

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Kathleen Mitchell** 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,

**Kathleen Mitchell, CHHC**

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Dear Sirs:

I was shocked to find the difference in pay between ND's and MD's. I believe that if you used an ND for your medical care you would realize their value to patients is equal to the MD's.

I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician and have been for years. She is wonderful - and supplements the care I receive from my MD. She is able to diagnose things my MD misses - she looks at the person and test results in a way that I've not yet had a physician do. She treats me from the inside out - not the outside in.

It is extremely important that there be fair pay scales for these doctors and that any obstacle to care be removed. They need to be recognized by Insurance Companies - if they recognize a physical therapist who has far less training than an ND, then why do they dismiss those who can give us complete care.

Thank you so much  
Linda Kline

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Sunnie Elliot** 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. The treatment and improvements to my health and my ability to stay healthy long term , thanks to ND's , is unparalleled

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,

**Sunnie Elliot**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Linnea Nilsen Capshaw 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. I have many complex health issues and they have helped me figure out things that traditional MDs could not!

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,

Linnea Nilsen Capshaw

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Robert Kendall and I am a patient of several Naturopathic Physicians, my sister is studying to become a Naturopathic Doctor (ND), I am also your constituent.

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 doctor.

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.

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

Sincerely yours,

Robert Kendall

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Elizabeth Santana** 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 Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people to access this essential level of care and also limits my choices for health care.

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,

Elizabeth Santana

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Brie Spicer and I am a patient of several naturopathic doctors (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 health-care system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to health care 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 health care.

My ND manages the majority of my health-care 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 health care. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for naturopathic doctors.

Sincerely,

Brie Spicer

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Georgette 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 all encompassing health and wellness like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I receive has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has restored my appreciation in the healthcare system that is detrimentally broken.

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

Sincerely yours,  
Georgette

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Serena Russum** 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,

**Serena Russum**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Nancy Moon-Eilers 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.

For the past 30 years, I have sought medical care from a Naturopathic physician for various conditions including minor ones such as cold/flu relief to more serious conditions including cardiovascular health. I have appreciated the expertise that an ND provides including the holistic perspective they bring based on centuries-worth of knowledge, teachings and practices that have shaped the field that many of us benefit from today.

Having spent time living in Kentucky in 2005-2006, I missed having access to NDs since they were not recognized, licensed physicians in that state. Moving back to the NW reminded me how much I truly missed this expertise, and forced me to do my own research and self-care, which I realize carried risk. Without the benefit of an ND, I am confident I would not be able to experience the same level of positive health that I do today.

So a question to you: "Why is it that Naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?"

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Nancy Moon-Eilers

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Elaine La Joie 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 love our naturopathic physicians. The ones we have had over the past 16 years have given us by far more personalized care than any MD or DO. I had a naturopathic midwife attend me for my pregnancy and birth. She had two other naturopaths with her. I received excellent care.

Our entire family sees our Naturopathic physician regularly. For the time and care we receive, our naturopath deserves to be compensated as much or even more than MD's who spend maybe 15 minutes with us.

Health care choice is important. This is one of the things that we love about Oregon.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Elaine La Joie

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,  
My name is **Patricia Thomas McNeal** and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). 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,

**Patricia Thomas McNeal**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,



My name is **C. Adele Hilsen** 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,

C. Adele Hilsen

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Leslie Vanderleeuw and I am a longtime patient of Naturopathic Doctors (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. I am grateful every day for my ND and want to support her and her colleagues in any way possible.

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 please vote **YES** on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Vanderleuw

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Janelle Cossey 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,

Janelle Cossey

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Diana Stepleton 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 few 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 and those of my children, 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.

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

Best regards,

Diana Stepleton

Cell: 503-806-1434

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Christy Loew, 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,

**Christy Loew**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Michelle Scott 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,

Michelle M. Scott

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Sharin Cooper 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,

Sharin Cooper

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Michael Tocchini** 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,

**Michael Tocchini**

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Please make sure all qualified medical practitioners receive 8medical insurance payments for their services. It's only fair that insured people get the services they choose and have their care providers be paid for their work. Allopathic medicine has a monopoly on medical care in this country for my whole lifetime. Let's create a marketplace where all accepted modalities are given the insurance payments they deserve and work for. Okay? Thanks!

Brian McNaughton  
former US Army medic during the Vietnam war

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Amanda Holden 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 for myself as well as my children, and none have taken the time and shown the care in our health and welfare like our naturopathic physicians. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped us 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 care 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 Holden

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Keri Padon** 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,

**Keri Padon**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Raminta Flynn 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,  
**Raminta Flynn**

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Melissa Bennett and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) in Oregon. 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 helped me move forward with my health conditions more than with my conventional doctors.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in our 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 including lab orders, health screenings, medical testing, and 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 for the first time in twenty years I feel like I am on a path toward healing.

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

Sincerely,

Melissa Bennett



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Melissa Bennett, M.Div.

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Cecily Crow 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. I struggled for many years with chronic illnesses that traditional doctors were not able to support me with. It wasn't until I saw a naturopathic doctor that I started to feel better. The care these doctors provide is integral to the health and wellbeing of Oregonians.

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,

Holistic Life Coach  
*Mindful Embodiment Coaching for a grounded, courageous and joyful life.*  
[www.cecilycrow.com](http://www.cecilycrow.com)  
503-298-0511

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

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

I am 69 years old and have been seeing a Naturopathic Physician for over twenty years because they treat holistically; they are fully trained physicians who utilize both allopathic and naturopathic treatments and remedies and I have experienced far more success and positive outcomes with their treatments than any traditional allopathic methods with traditional physicians.

I have found traditional medical practitioners to be limited in the scope and variety of treatment options. The approach of "one size fits all" methodologies neglects to consider the whole person and fails to address individual needs. Additionally and more importantly, I have experienced success, maintained my health, and had positive outcomes under the care of Naturopathic Physicians when allopathic treatments failed me.

I believe that as a health care consumer I should have choices in my health care providers that are currently denied me as a retired person on Medicare, and have never fully been covered by my very costly medical insurance when I was employed.

I fail to understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to other medical providers I have seen?

I respectfully am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Thorp

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Libby Smith 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.

Naturopathic care has been essential to my family's well being. My doctor has always taken such incredible care of us. I have never felt so seen and heard in a medical setting. She is always on point with vaccinations. Her balance of Eastern and Western medicine is why we trust her and have seen her for many years.

When I have seen a traditional Doctor I always felt rushed out of the room. On average they might spend 15-20 minutes with me. When I see my Naturopath, she spends at least an hour talking to me and takes a very holistic approach. I know I am in very good hands. I strongly urge you to make sure this kind of medical profession is well compensated for the very important work they do keeping our community healthy and safe.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Libby Smith and family

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Mel Kistler and my family are patients 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.

After working with a regular MD our family was misdiagnosed many times and underwent highly costly and unnecessary treatment that did not actually fix the issues. One specific incident includes being prescribed several times and after several visits toxic medication when the actual issue was needing to do an ammonia soak on cloth diapers.

Our ND was actually able to solve the issue so much better than our experience with MD and we have been able to work with them for so many other needs that our family has.

We respect the work of MD's and have to visit OHSU once a year for screening and the costs charged by these visits are outrageous. I have successfully argued the cost of those treatments and screenings down by \$1000's of dollars. While our ND is treating, spending more time, and doing more for our family at a small fraction of the pay- it is not right.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. This is critical for the health of Oregon families and will be something we watch as we decide whether to stay in this state or move somewhere with our 2 high income jobs and businesses.

Sincerely,

Mel Kistler

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Dear House and Senate for the Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Heather Burk 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 started seeing my ND when I learned I had thyroid issues...my traditional physician said there was nothing more I could do other than taking a pill. I immediately sought out care from an ND.

We discovered that when I stopped eating gluten and dairy my thyroid began to excel again. It was incredible! I would advocate very strongly for all naturopaths to be paid equally so they can stay in business and continue to serve in the

health community. I believe the health of our community's future relies on naturopathic medicine.

Discuss the unique ways naturopathic medicine has supported your health when other options had been unsuccessful.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Heather Burk

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My name is Sarah 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.

Having access to a naturopathic provider has been instrumental in my well being, mental, physical, and obstetric health. My family utilizes and appreciates the integrative options that naturopaths provide. They are an essential part of health care.

Working in health care myself I know many people, especially rural groups do not seek healthcare or have access to the type of healthcare that matches up with their beliefs. Naturopaths bridge that gap. Many of these women only seek care during their pregnancies and take a more natural route. Giving them access to a naturopathic physician allows them to have a comprehensive visit, establish a relationship that can continue after pregnancy, and provide them with safe access to medical care that they trust. This is a relationship that would not exist without the integrative medicine that naturopathic providers provide.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

They are recognized in the state of Oregon as a PCP, yet received less money? They write my prescriptions and attend the birth of my children, yet are not equally compensated?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Sarah Styron

\*\*\*\*\*

Esteemed legislators,

you are representing the citizenry that elected you. As one of your constituents I am asking you to reexamine the difference in pay scale for the work of the members of the healing profession who call themselves MDs (Medical Doctor) and NDs (Naturopathic Doctor) respectively. Why the huge difference, if not to say discrimination, expressed in the reimbursement of these two groups?

They are both doctors who have undergone mostly identical education in their respective fields. Both groups are well educated and deeply committed to their respective fields of medicine, with NDs informed about pharmaceutical products as well as naturopathic medications. That makes them better informed than MDs in some ways. Why then the discrepancy in reimbursement?

Today I am asking you to do justice to the expertise and many faceted skills that NDs bring to the treatment of their patients. My experience of many years of benefiting from their treatment qualifies me to speak out on their behalf.

NDs take the time necessary to get to know their patient's complicated histories, readily connect various symptoms and always look at the whole person rather than just the problem at hand. While I have experienced perfunctory treatment by some MDs, I have never experienced that from an ND.

My experience is that NDs are well informed about the medications prescribed by MDs in order to advice their patients about their choices. Furthermore, NDs offer additional treatment options to those offered by MDs as well as a variety of supplements. Generally, they are more sensitive to their patients' needs. It should be understood that they deserve the same payment for their efforts than their colleagues who call themselves MDs. By not allowing the same type of reimbursement for the services than is granted to MDs, you are discriminating against both providers and recipients of naturopathic health care. Furthermore, you are eliminating options that might be less costly than those of the medical field served primarily by large pharmaceutical companies.

Please rethink your previous decisions and bring equity to providers as well as recipients of naturopathic healthcare.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Patrick  
1300 NE 16th Ave. # 1225  
Portland, OR 97232-4404

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Michael Gillis 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. I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in my early 20's, and through the care of my ND (and not traditional gastroenterology) my chronic condition is manageable.

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,  
**MICHAEL GILLIS**  
*Project Manager*

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Diane Plesset 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,

Diane Plesset

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Nathen Eldridge and I have been a patient of Doctor David Bove (ND) for over two years now regarding chronic conditions I have been dealing with for over six years. I moved to Eugene, OR, from the northwest corner of Ohio. There my insurance did not cover visits to naturopaths. Thus, when a physical therapist gave me Dr. Bove's name, I was initially skeptical. I was willing to give him a try because I did not get very far with the general practitioner I had found at Oregon Medical Group. Very quickly into my treatment with Dr. Bove, I realized that I had a lot of misconceptions about naturopaths.

Previously, my limited exposure to natural medicine consisted of quack chiropractors in Ohio where they conducted such tests as active kinesiology and tried to get me hooked on a very expensive brand of supplements. I was half expecting more of the same when I met with Dr. Bove. Instead, after carefully listening to my story about the undiagnosed chronic conditions, Dr. Bove wrote up a lab order for some bloodwork so we could immediately start down the path of finding out exactly what was going on. I was shocked, I did not expect a naturopath to be able to write traditional lab orders covered by insurance. My surprise continued as he wrote scripts to help with a sleep problem I was having as well as helped me with the anxiety I was having as a result of my physical conditions. He did suggest some supplements to take based upon the results of testing, but everything we did, I was able to cross reference in medical journals.

While unfortunately my conditions ended up requiring the services of a specialist, the work I was able to do with Dr. Bove was more comprehensive than the work I did with many doctors back in Ohio (two different general practitioners and several specialists). With his help, I was able to confirm that I did have inflammation in the intestines, received a diagnosis of Small Intestine Bacterial Overgrowth confirmed by two breath tests, and ruled out a number of other conditions that may have contributed to my symptoms (something that is very important when dealing with the gut as many times a treatment that benefits one condition makes another worse). Despite full healing eluding us, Dr. Bove has been a source of encouragement due to his bedside manner and willingness to really dig deep into an issue.

For these reasons, and others not mentioned, when I was asked to write a letter of support for naturopaths and fair pay, I did not hesitate. Dr. Bove has done more for me in two years than any other doctor has during my time living with chronic conditions. To me, he deserves more compensation than the average doctor for the service he has provided. If the State of Oregon truly cares about its citizens, then please support the care given to patients by naturopaths. The majority of the doctors I have seen regarding my condition have tried to mask the symptoms. All patients deserve access to care from providers who are willing to dig deeper, and by having unfair compensation for naturopaths, the State of Oregon is dissuading quality doctors from practicing within its borders.

I am happy to discuss my story and interactions with Dr. Bove further, and I thank you for your time and consideration by reading this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Nathen Eldridge

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

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

I had symptoms that regular, mainstream doctors could not diagnose and even gave me misdiagnosis'. I spent a long time suffering as a result. When I finally saw a naturopath, I discovered I had an immune disorder. Since then, I was given a protocol, with the use of naturopath techniques, which enabled me to not only deal with the symptoms but causes.

I am writing this email to tell NDs are just as qualified and as important, if not more than a regular MD and should be able to get the same pay as one. There are more reasons for this not just quality of care. It is also important to have choice in care and not protecting NDs ability to provide quality care, due to lack in pay by insurance companies, which are the real problem with our healthcare system (including unnecessarily high medical costs in mainstream medicine itself) as regular MDs have, threatens this choice.

From a political standpoint, a free market is essential for a healthy economy and society. If you allow protections for only one type of physician you are in all intents and purposes supporting a one size fits all system that does not encourage what our democratic forfathers had intelligently intended relating to all of our God given rights, sovereignty over our own lives and the choices we make. These choices should be protected so that in competition itself, the discipline of medical science is not stifled to one viewpoint, or one type of doctor.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.



Sincerely,

Anna Dell'Arciprete

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Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Merrill Ann Mixer and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician.

I value the naturopathic care I have received over the years. I believe in functional medicine that looks for natural causes to explain pain, inflammation and disease. A naturopathic doctor looks for the root of the problem which can often be cured by diet, supplementation and exercise instead of pharmaceutical compounds.

I am thankful that my present insurance provider allows some choice for "alternative" care: naturopath, chiropractic and acupuncture. I have used all of these practitioners nearly exclusively the past 40 years and when it was not covered by insurance, I would pay out of pocket.

My doctors have always demonstrated extensive knowledge and don't deserve less pay. I believe I have received better - personalized - care from my naturopath doctor than from the primary care doctor.

I believe we deserve choice and informed consent in our medical care in the state of Oregon.

Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Merrill Ann Mixer

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Hana 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 have had a very interesting health history that has been significantly exacerbated and misdiagnosed in a dangerous way through Western Medicine practice. It was the discovery of someone who could get to know me personally and treat the real cause for my symptoms that I finally found relief. Prior to this discovery, I suffered exorbitant medical bills, nights in the ICU, and years of medicine trial and error that made me feel unseen, unheard and ultimately worse about my situation.

I recently delivered my first child with a naturopathic team, and the prenatal care I received resulted in a very pleasant natural birth to a healthy full-term baby boy. I will be raising him in the care of ND's, and am in full support of their role in our health!

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Hana Bridge

FROM THE DESK OF

## April Hansen, RN, BS

February 3, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **April Hansen** and I am a **Registered Nurse** and your constituent. I would like to share my experiences 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. Patients benefit from this TLC with better outcomes and less chronic long term diagnoses, thus driving down health insurance needs and costs.

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,

**April Hansen, RN, BS**

**april@heartsspringshealth.com**

February 3, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Ben Salminen** and I am 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,

Ben Salminen

February 3, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Grace J Willow, and I am a Licensed Massage Therapist, Somatic Therapist, and Certified Professional Life Coach, will soon be a Registered Counseling Intern in the state of Oregon, and also 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. Not only do they receive the same education as Medical Doctors, they also receive education in holistic treatments, such as herbs, tinctures, homeopathy, and hydrotherapy to name a few, for a whole person treatment approach. They take the time to research their patients' unique needs, then educate their patients to 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, Naturopathic Physicians 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,

Grace J Willow, LMT, CPC, Counseling Student Intern  
Heart Spring Health, LLC  
503-956-9396  
<https://heartspringhealth.com/team/grace-willow-lmt/>

FROM THE DESK OF

## **Kara Giaier, D.C.**

February 2, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Kara Giaier and I am a chiropractor 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,

**Kara Giaier, D.C.**

FROM THE DESK OF

## **Alicia Debevec, MS, RN, PHNA-BC**

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Alicia Debevec and I am a Public Health Nursing Supervisor and your constituent. I would like to share my experience 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 patients to access this unique and essential level of care and limits 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 healthcare providers.

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

Sincerely yours,

**Alicia Debevec, MS, RN, PHNA-BC**

**6101 SE Steele Street  
Portland, OR 97206  
alicia.debevec@gmail.com**

BARB GAZELEY  
4444 SW Twombly Ave., Portland OR 97239  
[bjgazeley@msn.com](mailto:bjgazeley@msn.com)  
(503) 577-3636

February 12, 2021

To: House and Senate Health Care Committees  
Oregon Legislature  
Re: HB 2673, Support Fair Pay for Naturpathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I write in support of HB 2673. I am a retired lawyer and member of the Oregon State Bar.

My primary care doctor for about 30 years has been a Naturopathic Doctor, Edythe Vickers, N.D., L.Ac., who practices at the An Hao Clinic in NW Portland, Oregon. I have visited Dr. Vickers for annual exams, and her procedures and recommendations have been invaluable in supporting my health proactively. Examples of the care I've received from Dr. Vickers are as follows:

\*Dr. Vickers has provided ongoing advice on diet, nutrition, supplementation, sleep, stress management and other matters related to health maintenance, which "regular" MD doctors seldom discuss because they lack education and are not informed on those matters.

\*Dr. Vickers has done all my female gynecological care. She has treated me for vaginal yeast infections. She helped me select the appropriate surgeon when I needed a left oophorectomy and bladder repair in 2005, and provided pre- and post-surgery support and advice. Dr. Vickers has advised me on menopausal health and has prescribed natural hormone cream to prevent/ease some symptoms.

\*Dr. Vickers has treated me for minor illnesses. I've also gone to Dr. Vickers for acupuncture occasionally, to support my immune system and reduce stress. Dr. Vickers advised and treated me when I became severely anemic in my late 30s due to trying to be a vegetarian, which didn't work for my body. When I had a severe flu virus in the fall of 2018, Dr. Vickers consulted with me and prescribed medication, which resulted in a quick recovery.

Dr. Vickers is very well informed and has always known more and has provided better professional advice than any MD I've consulted, which has happened occasionally for specific subspecialties such as dermatology and surgery, as well as occasionally for primary care services. Edie Vickers, ND has been unfailingly supportive, professional, concerned about my health and appropriate in her advice and treatment. She has been the best doctor I've ever consulted.

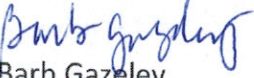
I made a decision a long time ago, before naturopaths were covered under insurance, to pay out of pocket in order to continue to have Edie Vickers as my doctor, because her professional care is extremely valuable to me. Later, when my insurance began to cover alternative care at least to some degree, I was very appreciative of it. At this point in time,



Naturopathic Doctors have long since proven their worth. It is way past time for them to be treated the same as Medical Doctors for purposes of insurance coverage, reimbursement and payment. The education Naturopathic Doctors receive is equal to and extends beyond what Medical Doctors learn, and their training and experiences prepare them not only to treat specific illnesses and conditions, but also to promote health and strengthen our immune systems so we don't need as much "reactive" medical care. Their professional services are invaluable.

Naturopathic Doctors should be compensated in the same manner as are Medical Doctors. I urge you to vote yes on HB 2673, and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Thank you,

  
Barb Gazeley

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Crystal Gailey, 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 delivery of quality healthcare in the State of Oregon. Working with a naturopathic physician is invaluable.

My naturopathic physician works very closely with me and takes care of me as a whole person, and not just a body of symptoms to medicate. I wholeheartedly appreciate it when she says, "I won't give up if you don't give up." She goes above and beyond what any medical physician I have ever been to would do. She and her staff brought me under their wings, and I am one with them trying to get better.

A naturopathic doctor finds the root of the problem and treats the root and symptoms simultaneously, taking away the need for long-term treatment of unnecessary medications and heal the ailment as a whole.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid less than other doctors I see? Naturopathic physicians go through the same medical education as every other doctor. When it gets to pharmaceuticals, that's where it splits. Is there so much money in pharmaceuticals, it dictates that a medical physician get paid more than a naturopathic physician?

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

Sincerely, Crystal Gailey

Kathy Damico  
3416 SE 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97202

RE: HB2673

February 2, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Kathy Damico** and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to ask you to please support my Naturopathic Doctor and vote yes on HB2673. The Oregon I know and have grown to love has always emerged from emergencies by working together. And this is that time.

I am saddened to hear that right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state and that they are currently paid 30-70% of what Physician's Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Medical Doctors & Doctors of Osteopathy receive for the same service. They incur a huge debt burden, comparable to these other medical professionals, and thus many Naturopathic Doctors struggle to practice this medicine that they are so passionate about.

This truly frightens me that in such a time of an emergency during this pandemic, that my ND could lose her practice because of unfair pay parity, and that I would lose the support and care I absolutely depend on. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, my ND has been there for me and my family every step of the way keeping us informed and staying vigilant to new data emerging from CDC and state guidelines. I have deep trust and respect for my ND.

As my primary care doctor, she has supported me physically taking the time and effort to get to the root cause of my health issues and over the past year, has also been there for me mentally and emotionally during this very confusing and stressful time. Her diverse knowledge and expertise and taking that extra level of care have been invaluable to my health. I depend on this level of care more than ever and I'm asking the committee to please to move forward to support HB2673 and the growth of Naturopathic Medicine emerging to support our more ever growing progressive communities. Portland is like no other place and has always been the leader in natural medicine and it's why I chose to live here.

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.

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

Sincerely yours,



**Kathy A. Damico**

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

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

I enjoy working with an ND because she looks for the underlying issue of what is going on with me and we work on that instead of having medications prescribed to treat a symptom by and MD.

I value the time my ND puts into each of my visits and after care follow-ups. I feel she values me and my time as well as my concerns more than an MD that pushes me in and out of an office visit as fast as they can.

The unique ways my ND puts into my healthcare that are more successful than prior treatments with MD's is she will run more through testing's that can require more of her time, but I receive better results vs. seeing an MD that only runs basic tests and doesn't want to take the time to truly find what is going on with my body and my needs.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Trisha Ritter

To Whom It may Concern,

My name is Gregg Perry and I am a patient of Dr. David Bove, ND in Eugene. Dr. Bove has been my physician since 2012 and was instrumental in aiding me in a bout with colon cancer.

The blood tests that he ordered during our first meeting were so comprehensive that my surgeon did not need to augment them. Dr. Bove built up my strength before surgery and prescribed a regime of nutritional supplementation that got me back on my feet quickly after surgery.

During 2020, I met with Dr. Bove via teleconference on four occasions. In each meeting, he listened to my concerns with great patience. I felt thoroughly heard and was even given access to his personal cell phone number in case I had a need for emergency consultation.

Given the care and empathy I have received from Dr. Bove, I was shocked to learn of the necessity of HB2573. Pay parity for professional medical services seems like a given to me. I don't understand how the same billing codes can be compensated so differently, especially given the depth of medical investigation carried out by naturopathic physicians.

Naturopathic physicians don't enter the exam room with a prepackaged treatment plan ready to go—they investigate each case with patience and openness. I need this type of interaction as a choice for my care. The pay parity bill will help to ensure that I continue to have this choice.

I urge strong support for the passage of HB2573!

Gregg Perry

Jeanne Grabowski

2/8/2021

HB 2673 Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jeanne 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.

Without access to Naturopathic care I would not have begun to progress in my healing journey after a two year struggle of massive chronic fatigue. The approach combining western and eastern medicine enabled me to get the attention I needed as well as the clinical protocol. At this stage of a health battle this quality of care is critical to healing.

Other MD's in NYC and across the country were not well equipped to understand my condition, SIBO, while my naturopath had seen hundreds of cases and was able to tailor a protocol to meet me where I was with my condition. I began healing in 2-months, what took two years in traditional medicine.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Grabowski

Date: February 4, 2021

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

Dear Rep. Power and Sen. Taylor (and Senate and Health Care Committees),

My name is Amy Bader. I am your constituent, 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.

Naturopathic doctors have been able to see and diagnose my body in a holistic way that no MD has ever been able to do. I have many times had MDs dismiss my concerns because they do not fit into the more narrow-focused approach they take. I was turned away for symptoms I was having for parasites, for example, from a primary care physician, because they said, "sushi restaurants are required to freeze their fish in Oregon, so you don't have a parasite". They would not even let me have a test! My ND tested me, and in fact, I did have parasites. This is one of many examples. I got lead poisoning a few years ago, and not one MD was able to help me -- the only answer was, "you just have to wait it out" (which would take years), but with natural products, I was able to safely chelate the lead out of my body in a few months. When I went back to the MD blood doctors, they didn't understand how it was possible.

I have several more examples -- but the point is, naturopaths are specialized, and in their holistic way of understanding and treating the body, they are able to support our health care in ways that MDs do not. It is critical that we are able to have choice when it comes to our health care providers. One size does not fit all. For me personally, MD's have their place, but I only need to see an MD every couple of years maybe, because I work with NDs for preventative health and holistic care. An MD cannot address most of my health care needs, and it is critical to me to be able to choose a healthcare provider who meets my needs. I will be grateful for a specialized MD, when I have an emergency need that requires their expertise as well.

I heard that naturopathic physicians are paid a fraction of what other providers are given, and I would like to understand why. This does not equate to the value they provide, for me personally, and our community.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,  
Amy Bader

**Law Offices of George J. Wall**

*Attorneys at Law*

Attorneys:  
George J. Wall  
Caitlin S. Laumaker  
Christopher W. Richter

Email: [gwall@eastpdxlaw.com](mailto:gwall@eastpdxlaw.com)

825 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 330  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Phone: (503) 236-0068  
Fax: (503) 236-0028

February 11, 2021

By email: [legislative@oanp.org](mailto:legislative@oanp.org)

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

I would like to share my experience working with naturopaths as medical providers and ask you to please support HB2673.

In my practice serving disabled individuals I work with many types of medical providers. Uniformly, my clients receive more attention, and often better primary care, than medical or osteopathic physicians. This is especially important for those of my clients who are indigent and limited in their ability to choose physicians. My clients feel that their naturopathic physicians listen to their concerns and pay attention to their welfare.

As I understand it, naturopathic physicians are not compensated at the same level as medical or osteopathic physicians. This makes it more difficult for individuals to access necessary care.

Please vote "Yes" on HB2673 and support fair pay for naturopathic physicians.

Very truly yours,

/s/ George Wall

George J. Wall

gjw



**Jennie L. Clark**  
**4516 SE Milwaukie Ave.**  
**Portland, OR 97202**

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Jennie L. Clark** 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,

  
**Jennie L. Clark**

February 01, 2021

Electronically submitted

Oregon State Legislature  
House and Senate Health Care Committees  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: House Bill 2673 Demanding Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)**

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees,

As a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent, this letter strongly requests your support of House Bill 2673 demanding fair pay from insurance companies for licensed ND's in Oregon.

Consulting with my ND has allowed for deeply personal and researched diagnosis of ailments for custom and highly effective solutions. Said solutions came after a long, costly, and frustrating process of seeking medical assistance from MDs, Allergists, and Immunologists. Unfortunately these professionals were unable to thoroughly assess my condition and unable to provide effective care solutions. The level of attention that I have received from my ND has allowed me to properly identify and resolve my health conditions.

It is disconcerting that the insurance process for receiving this ND treatment was so difficult. Ultimately, the detailed care provided by my ND was drastically undercompensated by the insurance process. The current insurance climate makes it much more difficult to access this care and limits my choices for healthcare.

Please vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Respectfully Submitted,



David P. Monnin, PWS  
36500 SE Hauglum Road  
Sandy, Oregon 97055

February 9, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dayna Velasco and I am a patient of Dr. Aimee Bonneval, ND. I would like to share my experience working with Dr. Bonneval to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Before seeing Dr. Bonneval, I often went to acupuncture to treat common health issues, like colds or joint pain, as well as seasonal depression. I found these methods to be more effective than taking medications long term. When I found out that I had the option of having an ND as my primary care, I was thrilled to have this choice. I felt like I was making the choice to not only address health issues, but to elevate my wellbeing.

Dr. Bonneval is the most thorough, knowledgeable physician I have ever worked with. The time she takes to listen and review all of my symptoms, and to view them within a holistic light, is unparalleled. My prior experiences with traditional western medicine doctors had always left me feeling unheard, rushed, and uncared for. Dr. Aimee always takes her time in assessing and paying attention to the details, as well as documenting an in-depth visit summary so that I can refer back to her recommendations.

The difference lies in that Naturopathic medicine views the doctor as a teacher. If every doctor is a teacher, then they will take the time to explain things to you until you understand them. Naturopathic medicine is thorough because it seeks to find the root cause of the illness, not just to treat the symptoms. This has made all the difference in my health and wellbeing.

During the last few years with Dr. Bonneval, she has treated me for a wide array of health issues, from gynecological to gastrointestinal to dermatological. She has made excellent referrals to specialists or surgeons when she deemed it necessary. She has prescribed appropriate medications, both pharmaceutical and herbal. I have always experienced resolution and relief for my health issues in working with her.

I work as a medical interpreter, and I have had the privilege of interpreting for many LEP patients who are working with Naturopathic doctors. It always puts a smile on my face when the patients are surprised by how they are treated, how they are listened to, and the range of options that the provider gives them, including natural alternatives. Many patients who come from more rural areas are used to natural alternatives, and prefer to try those before taking pharmaceuticals or having invasive procedures.

It takes a great deal of training, research and ongoing study in order to stay up to date on not only western treatments, but alternative treatments, including the thousands of herbs and formulas that are available to patients. I feel that Dr. Bonneval holds more than twice the knowledge of any primary care doctor I have seen in the past.

Naturopathic medicine blends alternative and western treatments to achieve the highest quality of patient care. Naturopathic doctors offer a wide range of treatments, many of which are unknown by western doctors. They are able to tie all of the pieces of your health together and have not only a vision but a solid plan for helping you achieve your health goals.

It is shocking to me to know that naturopathic physicians are paid so little, when their training, practice and knowledge is equal to any other doctor. Why is this?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

*Dayna Velasco*

**Dayna Velasco**

**505-795-4103**

FROM THE DESK OF  
**SL Koubele**

February 19, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is **(Insert Your Name)** 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 few 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 in addressing good health as well as preventing the deterioration of health. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

I would love that my ND manage the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They always 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,

**SL Koubele**

**Bend, Oregon 97701**

February 21, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Rachael Howard and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND 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, and 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,

**Rachael Howard**

February 1, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Nora E. 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, from various states trying to address my complex medical needs. From some of New York City's finest MD's to comparable practitioners in Southern California, none have been able to address, manage, and improve my condition and quality of life like my naturopathic physician. **My naturopathic physician is simply unparalleled in their skillset and ability to manage my very complex case and makes the job of my Oregon MD physicians infinitely easier and more effective. My ND has prevented at least two surgeries for my condition since entering their care.** Of the many doctors I have seen over fifteen years in treatment, 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 are also highly specialized in my condition which is typically treatment resistant. 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 have restored my quality of life where all other medical professionals failed.**

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

Sincerely yours,

Nora E.

February 2, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I have been a patient of several naturopathic physicians over the years and I was shocked to learn that naturopaths are regularly paid less than MDs and left to negotiate on their own with insurance companies for fair compensation.

I choose to see naturopathic physicians because, quite simply, they treat me like a human. The MDs I've seen over the years are cold, rushed, and dismissive – the exact opposite of how I'm treated when I see a naturopath. Naturopathic doctors exude an enthusiasm for their work that you have to experience to understand. They take time to get to know their patients and approach their health holistically. I've been prescribed such non-toxic options as a salve of common oils and herbs for a nasty spider bite (which worked miracles) to massage for entrenched back pain. While I am able to get modern medicines from my naturopath, like birth control or my inhaler, I'm also able to explore non-pharmaceutical options with them, like air purifiers and nutrition. My last ND, who sadly has moved out of Oregon, ran evening clinics in nutrition and recovery for female athletes and sent seasonal allergy best-practice reminder emails. I've never seen anything like that level of engagement and commitment from an MD.

One of the most important qualifiers for an insurance company for me is that I can see an ND without fuss. Now I hope legislature will take the opportunity to ensure those NDs are paid fairly for their valuable approach to human health.

It is so important that young physicians see a future for themselves in naturopathic medicine to preserve this high-quality healthcare option for Oregonians. I am asking that you vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Lea Wilson

6102 NE 6<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
Portland, OR 97211



January 30, 2021

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

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Elizabeth Doyel and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please please 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.

Because I go to a Naturopathic doctor, I feel healthier and therefore feel I do not burden the healthcare system and cause my insurance company to pay out more than necessary. However, it is frustrating that my insurance company does NOT pay equally for the care I get with my ND as it does with MD's I have been to. This needs to change! I do not want to be left with the balance nor my ND not be fairly paid for their equal skill and care.

Right now 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.

Once again, I am asking you to **VOTE YES on HB2673** and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth Doyel