

February 22, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees,

I am the caregiver for my wife Deborah Morgan, who has been a patient of multiple Naturopathic Physicians. I would like to share my observations and experiences during the time that Deborah has been working with NDs to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

Unfortunately, Deborah has suffered for many years from a number of different chronic health conditions, and over the course of dealing with them, she has been treated by an array of doctors and other health care professionals, including General Practitioners, Specialists, and Naturopathic Doctors. It has been obvious to me that each of them brought their own unique and important skills, treatments and competencies while working with her.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Peter "Rick" Bleiweiss
1131 Highwood Drive
Ashland, OR 97520