



PLEASE SUPPORT HB 4006

Oregon has an ongoing shortage of healthcare providers in primary care and behavioral health.

More than \$100M in financial incentives have been budgeted by the state to recruit licensed healthcare workers to live and practice within Oregon. At the same time there are 1100 Oregon licensed NDs already here. These doctors have training, scope of practice, and access to DEA licenses that more than qualify them to fill many shortage positions, yet NDs are shut out from participating in the workforce by health insurer reimbursement discrimination. It is a rare employer who will choose a qualified employee who can produce only 50% of the income when providing the same healthcare services in the same volume as co-workers.

Oregon NDs don't need expensive incentives — they need Fair Pay from health plans.

Naturopathic physicians have been licensed in Oregon since 1927 and enjoy an excellent patient safety record. Naturopathic medicine is modern, science and evidence based. It is also extremely popular among Oregonians who are seeking integrative solutions and safe complimentary care. Access to naturopathic medicine is featured in the marketing materials of the very same insurers who refuse to pay naturopathic doctors fairly.

NDs have only one choice - patients pay the price. Health insurance companies dictate the reimbursement rates. The only choice given to an ND when contracting with a health insurance plan is to “take it or leave it.” Some NDs have chosen to “leave it”, abandoning the vast majority of Oregonians who cannot afford to pay for their healthcare out of pocket.

This is the third legislative session that the OANP has brought forward health insurance parity language. Legislation modeled after current statutes for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, requiring all health insurance plans to pay NDs the same rates for the same services.

- HB 4006 will result in a slight increase to the budget of PEBB and OEBC. Previous OHA analysis indicates an increased cost of a little over \$1 million per year to the plans. This amount is less than 0.1% of the agency's overall budget.
- HB 4006 does not lock in the “fee-for-service” model. The bill language specifically calls for fair payments now, and fair payments in whichever reimbursement models may be adopted in the future.

Oregon needs all licensed health care providers working without penalty to their employer.



PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB 4006.

Submitted by Jeff Clark, ND legislative@oanp.org