

nwestppn@gmail.com

January 31, 2022

Re: YES ON HB4006

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Sarah Lemley and I am the Executive Director of the Northwest PANDAS/PANS Network, a 501c3 organization. Our organization works to support children and families with post-infectious neuroinflammatory disorders. A significant portion of what we do is help families find medically competent care in our state. The medical providers who have stepped up to take care of this complex population, are predominately Naturopathic Physicians. Because of this, we are asking for your support on HB 4006.

I have had the opportunity to work with Naturopathic Doctors and appreciate the unique and valuable skill set and approach to care that they offer. I have always found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable and well trained clinically. Most importantly I have witnessed the positive impact on patients' health and wellness that comes from the care NDs provide.

Unfortunately, insurance companies do not compensate NDs fairly for these valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in-network with some insurance companies, creating a barrier for patients to access their care.

Additionally, it makes it untenable for most clinics and hospitals to hire NDs as employees during a time of healthcare provider shortages. NDs should be compensated fairly for the care they are able to deliver to the people of Oregon.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB 4006 and support Naturopathic Doctors, small clinics and their patients.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Lemley, MPA; HA

Executive Director

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