

February 2, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, Recently moved looking to find ND; support NDs

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Susan Randolph. I am in the process of moving permanently from Connecticut to Oregon and will be looking for a Naturopathic Doctor to serve as my primary care physician. I ask you to support HB4006 and would like to touch on some of the reasons why I prefer a Naturopathic Doctor as my primary physician and why I think it is important to pass HB4006.

There are of course many types of medical providers and models of care. The current MD model of care only allocates 10 or 15 minutes per patient visit, and focuses only on the immediate problem at hand and medications that might help. I am looking for a better model and discussions with friends and family indicate that NDs dedicate more time with patients as they are trained to view the immediate problem from a broad perspective and have the necessary training to identify more wholistic courses of action. Friends and family under the care of an ND report that they feel well cared for and have the opportunity to fully understand the pros and cons of different courses of action and participate in choosing the course of action that will provide the best outcome for them.

I am looking for a licensed ND to manage the majority of my healthcare needs including annual exams, lab orders, health screening, prescriptions and to make referrals to specialists as needed. In the course of looking for a ND to serve as my primary care physician, I have learned that in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their contributions to healthcare. This puts them on unstable financial ground, and makes it difficult for them to accept new patients that cannot afford to pay out of pocket.

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my primary care doctor. I cannot afford to pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. That's just not right and ends up restricting access. I want a primary care doctor that takes the time to teach me about my health concerns and how to best manage my health through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, in addition to prescribing medications and treatments.

I am asking you to please vote yes on HB4006 and ensure fair access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Susan M. Randolph
20140 SE Borges Rd.
Damascus, OR 97089