



February 2nd, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, Simply time for Fair Pay.

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Kerie Raymond and I am a Naturopathic Physician (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support HB 4006.

I love helping people. This is why I went to medical school to become a licensed physician and practice medicine in my local community. I enjoy connecting with people whatever perspective they are coming from, and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward. Just like any other provider on the health care team.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, whether it be their annual wellness check, ordering labs, health screenings and prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers when appropriate. In addition, I educate my patients about diet, menu planning, and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these come together to create a more complete long-term care plan that ultimately results in cost-savings.

Unfortunately, ND's are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential, desired and unique level of care. The state is allowing private insurance companies to limit access to healthcare for patients and their families in the community.

I have seen this first hand after a recent motor vehicle accident, where I required a visit to the ED and several providers, which is ongoing. MD's, PA's, etc are being paid substantially more for exactly the same CPT Codes, for the same work, as I provide as an ND. We are just asking to be fairly compensated for the same work. Large clinics and hospital systems have staff employed just to negotiate contracts with insurance companies. As self employed ND's we cannot afford this, so are just expected to put up with being paid minimally, and way under the typical rates for other equivalent providers.

For those of us who have been able to choose to stay in-network in the insurance plans, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, support staff and our families, and give back to the community. One option is moving to an all-cash model that not everybody can afford, the other option is to finally pass HB 4006.

I encourage you to please support us in our quest for fair pay for ND's.

Sincerely yours,

Kerie Raymond ND