

February 2, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, I'm a Patient and support my ND

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Cynthia Catto. I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor. I would like to share my experience working with this medical provider, and ask you to support HB4006.

There are of course many types of medical providers and models of care. The one I have come to value - and desire to keep seeing - is my ND. I feel better cared for by my ND because she spends time to understand the whole picture of my health, not just treat symptoms as they arise.

Unfortunately in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their contributions to my health and to the healthcare of this state. This puts my doctor on unstable financial ground, and my access to this highly valued care at constant risk.

It is a matter of equity that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. I visit my ND for all my ongoing, routine preventative services, and, yet, these important preventive services that keep me from utilizing the "traditional" medical system when physical issues become catastrophic, are either not covered or covered in such a limited manner as to be almost useless economically. That is not fair or equitable to those of us who are trying very hard not to overburden an already overburdened medical system.

My ND 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,

Cynthia R Catto
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