

Katherine Stiles ND  
February 3, 2022  
Re: YES ON HB 4006, It is time for Fair Pay

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Katherine Stiles, and I am a Naturopathic Physician practicing in Portland, Oregon. I am asking for your support for HB4006.

As a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) I currently practice in the outpatient setting as part of a clinician team with other healthcare providers including board certified physicians (MD/DO) and nurse practitioners (WHNP, CNM). After completing 4-years of undergraduate education, 4-years of naturopathic medical school, and a 3-year accredited residency, I am as well-versed in utilizing pharmaceuticals, labs, and imaging as I am passionate about addressing the foundations of a health promoting lifestyle with my patients. Despite the qualifications to provide high quality and essential healthcare services in the state of Oregon – every single day my career as an ND is negatively impacted by insurers reimbursing ND service codes below the market value.

This legislation requires insurance companies to reimburse NDs on par with our other healthcare colleagues. NDs are already recognized as in-network providers with commercial insurers. Without this legislation, insurers elect to pay NDs an arbitrary and lower (often 50-60%), rate for the same service codes that are the standard language of billing also utilized by MD, DO, PA, NP. HB 4006 creates accountability for insurers to reimburse the codes and services they already recognize NDs are qualified to provide at a market rate instead of the arbitrary “ND” lowered rate. Passing this legislation simultaneously increases healthcare access for Oregonians by expanding coverage of trained and license providers and reinvests healthcare spending directly into small businesses and healthcare practices across the state which sustains Oregonian’s ongoing access to healthcare.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Katherine Stiles, ND