

Christina Fitzmaurice, MD MPH

February 2, 2022

Re: YES ON HB4006

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Christina Fitzmaurice, and I am a medical oncologist. I focus on providing breast cancer care to patients in Central Oregon and I do it alongside licensed NDs. In this letter I ask for your support of 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 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. Patients often need complementary care to help them through cancer treatment. Naturopathic Doctors can often provide very valuable input and empower patients to tailor their support during cancer treatment according to their individual needs.

Unfortunately, insurance companies do not compensate NDs fairly for these valuable contributions to healthcare in this 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Fitzmaurice'. The signature is fluid and cursive. A mouse cursor is visible over the signature.

Christina Fitzmaurice, MD MPH

Hematologist/Oncologist, Bend, OR