

FROM THE DESK OF

# Brooke Arias, PA

**February 1, 2022**

Re: HB4006, Vote YES to Support Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Brooke Arias and I am a Physician Assistant (PA) who has worked at emergency departments throughout the Portland metro area. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon with licensed Naturopathic Doctors as a PA and ask you to please support 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, competent, and well trained clinically. Most importantly I recognize the importance of NDs roles as primary care providers to prevent illness and contribute to a lower burden of those seeking care in the emergency departments.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in network with some insurance companies and in practice, especially as primary care providers, and deliver this essential and unique level of 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 fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

**Brooke Arias PA**

[aria1652@pacificu.edu](mailto:aria1652@pacificu.edu)

5210 NE 47<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97218