

Submitter: Sarah Agsten  
On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure: HB4006

HB 4006

To: House Committee on Health Care

I am writing in opposition of HB 4006 regarding reimbursement for naturopathic physicians be in the same amount as payment to physicians (MD/DO). The training of a MD/DO physician involves four years of medical school, the last two years which are spent boots-on-the-ground in clinics and hospitals training, followed by a minimum of three year of residency training in clinics and hospitals. This training includes understanding the pathophysiology of the various disease processes, the pharmacology of the proposed treatments and general surgical practices. A primary care MD/DO physician is responsible for the complete health care of their patient to include the management of acute and chronic diseases, preventative services, ordering of labs and radiology services, prescription refills, prior authorization completion, the ordering of durable medical equipment and providing 24/7 call coverage for patients needing after hours advice. A primary care physician is also aware of their patient's hospitalizations and ensures follow up in a timely manner at their discharge. During an office visit for which equal pay parity is being requested of in HB 4006, an MD/DO physician provides additional non-RVU services such as work to meet metrics, PCPCH and social determinants of health. These services are provided to all patients equally regardless of insurance. There is current precedent that mid-level provider (physician assistants and nurse practitioner) are reimbursed at a lower rate by insurance companies. In summary, the services provided by MD/DO physicians are above those provided by a naturopathic physician and should remain being reimbursed by insurance companies at a higher rate.

Regards,

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