

February 3, 2022

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

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Mark Zeitzer and I am an MD and the interim Chief Medical Officer at ZoomCare. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon with licensed Naturopathic Doctors as a medical doctor 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. They work at ZoomCare doing the same work as PAs, NPs, and Physicians side by side with the same clinical acumen and quality. They are doing the same work and should be compensated the same. Most importantly I recognize the importance of NDs roles as primary care providers to prevent illness and contribute to improved access to high-quality care.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in-network with 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 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,

Mark Zeitzer, MD

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