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From: **Abigail Robinson** <abbynrobinson16@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 8:58 AM

Subject: Re: Seeking your testimonial to support pay parity for ND's, thank you!!

February 3, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, I'm a Patient and support my ND

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Abigail Robinsonn, I have been a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor for over eight years. I would like to share my experience working with my medical provider, and ask you to support HB4006. There are of course many types of medical providers and models of care. The one I have come to value and desire to keep seeing - is my ND. I feel cared for, seen, and valued with the dedicated time and attention my provider devotes to my healthcare needs.

Unfortunately in Oregon, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their contributions to my health and the healthcare of this state. This puts my doctor on unstable financial ground, and my access to this highly valued care at constant risk.

It is essential that I am able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. As a graduate student pursuing my own path in healthcare, I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance against major medical expenses and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. That is not right, fair, or accessible.

My licensed ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs surrounding my chronic condition and my overall health. This care includes my annual exam, follow-up appointments, lab orders, other health screenings and prescriptions. They also refer me to competent providers and specialists in the conventional medicine world as needed. Nearly all of them operate in partnership or in networks with other providers, truly ensuring that my health is optimized.

My ND takes the time to teach me about my health concerns and how to best manage my health through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, in addition to prescribing medications and treatments. Through their attentiveness, professionalism, knowledge, and kindness, I have been able to not only heal, but thrive in my health and well-being. I have recommended my provider to over a dozen of my family and friends due to the quality of care that I have received and the relationship I have built with my provider throughout the years. I cannot express in words how grateful I am for my provider along with the mission and values of the naturopathic profession. My provider, and the profession, has truly changed and saved my life.

I am asking you to please vote yes on HB4006 and ensure fair access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Abigail Robinson