

CHAD BARKER
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February 1, 2021

Re: Please vote YES on HB 4006

Dear House Health Care Committee:

My name is Chad Barker and I am a long-time patient of Daivati Bharadvaj, a licensed Naturopathic Doctor here in Portland. Dr. Bharadvaj and other NDs are critical to the health and well-being of our community, and I implore you to support HB4006.

I'm a 50 years old married father of two teenagers, and I have seen many kinds of healthcare practitioners over the years. There is a good reason my wife and I have chosen an ND to be our family physician: We receive holistic care in a way we've never received before through other types of medical providers and models of care. My family and I experience great benefits - and comfort - in receiving our medical attention from our ND.

It's a shame that, in Oregon, NDs are not compensated fairly to the health of our community. This makes me nervous because, unless NDs are paid fairly, the type of care my family and I have come to depend upon is at risk. And the last thing I want is for my doctor to be at risk financially.

I also need the ability to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. I simply can't afford to both purchase health insurance against major medical expenses AND pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care.

I consider our ND to be the quarterback for our family's healthcare needs. When we see other providers, we have our records sent to our ND 100% of the time - whether it's an annual exam, lab order, other health screenings and prescriptions. We want our ND to know everything about our health.

Dr. Bharadvaj takes the time to teach me about my health concerns and managing my health through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, along with prescribing medications and treatments when those are called for.

Finally, NDs are able to refer their patients to other high-quality 'conventional' medical providers. Nearly all of them operate in partnership or in-network with other providers, which ensures that my health is optimized.

Given the importance of the ND's role, please vote yes on HB4006 to ensure the broader community also has fair access to licensed, fairly-compensated Naturopathic Doctors.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chad Barker