



OREGON MEDICAL
WEIGHT LOSS & WELLNESS

SW PHYSICAL
THERAPY

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February 3, 2022

Re: YES ON HB4006, I do and I work in the medical industry

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Jessica Ahtoon and I am a Medical Assistant at Southwest Family Physicians. My work is to care for patients in Oregon and I do it alongside licensed NDs - and ask for your support of 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 always found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable and well trained clinically. Most importantly I have witnessed the positive impact on patients' health and wellness that comes from the care NDs provide.

Unfortunately, insurance companies do not compensate NDs fairly for these valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in-network with some insurance companies, creating a barrier for patients to access their 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 Naturopathic Doctors, small clinics and their patients.

Sincerely yours,

Jessica Ahtoon, Medical Assistant