

# Please support HB2555

External

HB2555



**emilio ramirez** Tue, Feb 14, 5:15 PM (2 days ago)

to me

Dear House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Emilio Ramirez and I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with my doctor, and ask you to support HB2555.

I have a son who has suffered from multiple conditions that western medicine practitioners had not been able to figure out and treat effectively until we sought an ND. Our ND works together with our family physician and specialists to provide a larger scope of recommendations that together have really helped make progress in my son's well being. We're very thankful for her advice and treatments.

Unfortunately, naturopathic doctors in Oregon are not being fairly compensated for the care they give me and for the important role they play in our state's healthcare workforce. Naturopathic doctors are paid about half of what all the other provider types (MDs, DOs, NPs and PAs) are paid for the same exact billing code and same service provided. This discrepancy puts my doctor on unstable financial ground and puts my access to my provider of choice in jeopardy. Naturopathic doctors are being forced to drop insurance plans to remain financially viable.

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. It's not only unfair, it's unrealistic. I need my ND to stay in network with my insurance and to stay in business!

I am asking you to please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure access to licensed naturopathic doctors.

Sincerely,  
*Emilio Ramirez*  
*Portland, OR*