

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Joon Ae Haworth-Kaufka. I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) – as are my children and my husband. We use a mix of Western, Eastern, and naturopathic medicine to keep ourselves healthy – but nothing has been as meaningful and helpful to my family as the care we’ve gotten from our naturopath. I urge you to support HB2555.

NDs in Oregon are not being fairly compensated, and this, in a state that values freedom and choices, just doesn’t make sense. I have learned that 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. Naturopathic doctors are being forced to drop insurance plans to remain financially viable, which means I have to pay out of pocket for my care. This is unsustainable and makes it harder for us to get the important care we need.

It is also simply not fair that NDs, who do the same or more work than other doctors, are not being compensated for their expertise.

Please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure access to licensed naturopathic doctors and that professionals are getting compensated fairly for their work.

Sincerely,
Joon Ae Haworth-Kaufka
Portland, OR