

Dear House Behavioral Health & Health Care Committee,

Please vote yes on HB 2555 and ensure patient access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.

My name is Jeff Blanchard and I am a licensed physical therapist in the state of Oregon. I have many patients and family members who are patients of licensed Naturopathic Doctors (ND). I am asking you to support HB 2555 because my patients, family members, and particularly my wife have had a positive experience with my ND and strongly believe they should be compensated at the same level as other providers.

I especially value the time my ND spends on educating about preventative health and how best to manage concerns through nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress and improving sleep. This is a valuable type of medicine that I have seen improve the health and quality of life of many people.

Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are not being fairly compensated for the care they give and for the important role they play in our state's healthcare workforce.

Naturopathic doctors are paid about half of what all other provider types (MDs, DOs, NPs and PAs) are paid for the exact same codes and services. **This imbalance puts my wife's doctor on unstable financial ground and puts her access to the provider of her choice in jeopardy. Naturopathic doctors are being forced to drop insurance plans just to remain financially viable.** This has happened to my wife two times in the past 5 years! We cannot afford to always pay out of pocket for this valuable service.

It is essential that she be able to utilize our health insurance to see her doctor. We should not be forced to purchase health insurance AND pay out of pocket for the quality of health care that we have chosen. We need her ND to stay in network with my insurance and stay in business!

Please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure patient access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Name: Jeff Blanchard
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