

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

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

I rely on integrated care for my health and wellness. My NDs specialize in a variety of modalities to help find causes behind symptoms I experience. They take the time to explain their findings and explore methods to improve my health challenges.

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 doctors 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 doctors. 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 NDs 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,

Cathy Huey

Portland