

Dr Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO

Naturopathic Cancer Specialist

Wholistic and Integrative care.



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January 25, 2023

Re: HB 2555, Vote YES to Support Fair Pay for NDs

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee:

My name is Dr. Eliot Edwards, and I am an Oregon Licensed Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as an ND and ask you to please support HB 2555.

I have been practicing over 20 years and specialize in integrative cancer care. I work with patients who are fighting for their lives and want to maintain a strong quality of life. Integrative oncology helps these patients through the conventional cancer treatments including chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. The cost of cancer treatments is astronomical and therefore, most of my patients are reliant on insurance coverage to access my care.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential, desired and unique level of care. I was forced to go out of network with 2 insurance companies last year because of their poor reimbursements. The remaining plans that I am still in network with, continue to drop reimbursement rates for NDs which may force me to drop them too. The state could help level the playing field and require private insurance companies to reimburse NDs on par with our other healthcare colleagues including Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and MDs/DOs.

My wife, daughter and I moved back to Oregon in 2017. My wife is also a naturopathic physician. We moved here from Illinois largely because naturopathic physicians are fully licensed and highly integrated into the medical system in this state. Despite that recognition, discrimination in the form of poor reimbursement continues even here in Oregon through unfair practices by the insurance companies. Please help us fix this issue.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2555 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO

Naturopathic Physician

Fellow, American Board of Naturopathic Oncology