

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Aubrey Kyung and I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor, Dr. Jessica Sweet. I would like to share my experience working with my doctor, and ask you to support HB2555.

I had a bout with breast cancer in 2019 and it wasn't until I began seeing Dr. Sweet after all my treatments and double mastectomy I was finally able to feel healthy from the inside out without any type of pharmaceuticals. I have never felt better in my life and I am 39 years old. In my opinion, naturopathic physicians are getting to the root of the problem and helping individuals, like myself, heal from within instead of throwing pharmaceuticals at the symptom and keeping individuals sick because big pharma, insurance companies, and Western healthcare only care about profits. Dr. Jessica Sweet GENUINELY cares about my well-being and the well being of society.

Though there are many diverse and valuable types of medical providers, the provider that I, above all, value for my regular care is Dr. Jessica Sweet at The Ren Clinic in Portland, OR. The clinical expertise and unique training that Dr. Sweet offers, coupled with the dedicated time and attention given to all my concerns, makes them irreplaceable to me.

Dr. Sweet manages the majority of my healthcare needs, whether it be my annual wellness visits, necessary lab and imaging tests, preventive screening exams or vital prescriptions. They also refer me to medical specialists as needed, working in partnership with other providers to offer a truly integrative approach to my healthcare.

Dr. Jessica Sweet takes the time to teach me about my health and how to best manage my concerns through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, in addition to prescribing medications or alternative treatments. This is the best type of preventive medicine and has saved me from worse illness or more expensive treatments down the line.

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 Dr. Jessica Sweet. 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 Dr. Jessica Sweet and The Ren Clinic 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,  
Aubrey Kyung