

HB 2555 Support Letter

External

HB2555



Jennifer Johnson

<johnsonjenniferleigh@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 10, 2:06 PM (3 days ago)

to me

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Jennifer Johnson, and I am a naturopathic doctor practicing in Oregon. I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 2555.

In order to become a licensed naturopathic doctor, I completed a 4-year graduate program, two sets of board examinations, and a residency. My scope of practice includes ordering labs, ordering imaging, performing procedures (such as IUD placement), referring to specialists, and prescribing medications (including some schedule drugs). With these tools, I have been able to provide high quality healthcare to my community.

However, insurance companies reimburse equivalent services performed by naturopathic doctors at substantially lower rates than medical doctors and nurse practitioners. This occurs despite similar costs of being in clinical practice, similar graduate school loan debt, and similar levels of risk inherent in a primary care practice. This financial reality has made it difficult for naturopathic doctors to remain in practice, and the more people leave this field due to financial hardship, the less access Oregonians will have to comprehensive primary care services.

The measures in HB 2555 would be life-changing for me and would solidify my plans to practice medicine and serve my community in Oregon until I reach retirement age. I hope you will consider supporting this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Johnson

Reconstructed Wellness

936 SE Ankeny St, Portland, OR 97214