

12-Mar-2023

Re: HB 2555, Vote YES to Support Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House, Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Scott D. Brown, BA, DC, and I am a retired Chiropractor, currently working in primary pharmaceutical research. I would like to share my experience working with licensed Naturopathic Doctors and ask you to please support HB 2555.

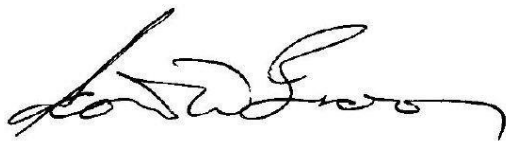
I have had the opportunity to work closely with Naturopathic Doctors as both a primary referral source and outlet. I appreciate the unique and valuable skill set and approach to care that they offer. I have found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable, competent, and clinically well-trained.

I recognize the great importance of NDs in their role as primary care providers to prevent illness and help reduce the costs associated with traditional pharmaceutical, and hospital management. Their unique education equips them well in this role and enables them to offer treatment alternatives that patients not only desire but respond well to. They are thus a valuable part of a healthcare team and the state's workforce in general. It is a proven fact that alternative medicine practices such as that of an ND, used in conjunction with traditional healthcare, greatly increases both the quality and response of patient care. This is seen in the recent, overwhelming growth of Integrative Medicine.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it difficult for NDs to stay in network with insurance companies, and even to remain in practice for their patients. Moreover, it makes it untenable for most clinics and hospitals to hire NDs as employees, and during a time of healthcare provider shortages and escalating health care costs. NDs should be compensated fairly for the care they are able to deliver to the people of Oregon.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB 2555 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott D. Brown, BA, DC  
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