

March 13, 2023

Re: HB2555, Vote YES to Support Fair Pay for NDs

Dear House Committee on Healthcare,

First and foremost, thank you for hearing HB2555 in Committee. I understand this is a busy session and I greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

As a licensed Naturopathic Doctor, I completed 4 years medical school, followed by 3 years of residency in a Tier 4 Patient Centered Primary Care Home. I am now the Executive Director of a nonprofit medical organization that provides over 3000 hours of integrative medical care to children with disabilities in Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Jackson, and Multnomah Counties.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for the valuable services we provide. Although the scope of my education and licensure is that of a primary care physician, I've had some insurance companies pay me as little as \$30 for an hour of patient care, or others who create restrictions on coverage by lumping my services together with those provided by a massage therapist (the training for which can be completed in 500 hours, and without a bachelor's degree). It'd be laughable if it wasn't causing so many physicians to close their doors or leave the field altogether, and ultimately contribute to decreased access to healthcare for Oregonians.

It's obvious that patients without access to primary care services utilize emergency medical systems in times of acute need, where they are unable to receive continuity of care, and where care comes at a much greater expense to the medical system. In a state with a critical shortage of primary care physicians, **Oregon simply cannot afford to limit the efforts of over 1,000 licensed primary care providers through unjust reimbursement for equal services.** We need you to vote YES on HB2555 in order to stay in business and serve the patients that depend on us.

HB2555 is a well-written bill which will not hinder any future progress for healthcare reform in Oregon, but will help to secure the future care of my patients.

**Please bring HB2555 to a vote in Committee and vote YES for fair reimbursement.**

Yours in health,



Amanda Watters, ND

Executive Director

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*CC: My legislators: Senator Daniel Bonham , District 26; Representative James Hieb, District 51*