

3-14-23

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Dawn Hillman, I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with my doctor, and ask you to support HB2555.

Though there are many diverse and valuable types of medical providers, the provider that I, above all, value for my regular care is my ND. The clinical expertise and unique training that my doctor offers, coupled with the dedicated time and attention given to all my concerns, makes her absolutely irreplaceable to me.

My ND 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. She also refers me to medical specialists as needed, working in partnership with other providers to offer a truly integrative approach to my healthcare.

My ND 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. Before seeing my ND, I had horrible health. I had seen several 'regular' doctors and felt that medication were the only options that were given. I felt- at 35- that I wasn't going to be around much longer. Working with my ND was a life saver for me! I feel this is the best type of preventive medicine and has saved me from worse illness and/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 has forced my doctor to drop insurance plans to remain financially viable.**

I would greatly appreciate the ability to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. It causes financial strain 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 want my ND to afford to be 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,

Dawn Hillman  
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Grants Pass, Oregon