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House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for HB3439 – Pay Parity for Naturopathic Physicians

Dear Members of the House Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge your support for HB3439, a crucial measure that seeks to ensure pay parity for naturopathic physicians in Oregon. As a licensed naturopathic doctor providing primary care to Oregonians, I witness firsthand both the critical role NDs play in the healthcare system and the financial challenges imposed by unfair reimbursement policies.

Currently, naturopathic physicians are reimbursed at rates significantly lower than our physician, nurse practitioner, and physician associate colleagues—despite performing the same services. In my own practice, I deliver comprehensive primary care, support patients with chronic and complex conditions, and help alleviate the burden on an already strained healthcare system. Yet, my compensation remains only a fraction of what other providers receive for identical work. This discrepancy places a significant strain not only on my ability to sustain my practice but also on my personal financial well-being—affecting my ability to repay student loans, afford housing, and plan for retirement. Like many of my colleagues, I face difficult decisions about how to continue offering accessible care while navigating financial instability.

This pay disparity is not just an issue of fairness; it directly impacts patient access to care. Many naturopathic physicians struggle to keep their doors open due to inadequate insurance reimbursement. Some are forced to transition to cash-based models, limiting care to only those who can afford it, while others leave insurance networks altogether or close their practices entirely. If this trend continues, Oregon will lose vital primary care providers at a time when healthcare shortages are already a growing concern.

HB3439 presents a fiscally responsible solution with a small budget impact relative to the enormous benefit it will provide for patient choice, healthcare accessibility, and provider sustainability. Ensuring that NDs are reimbursed at equitable rates will strengthen Oregon's healthcare system by keeping more providers in-network and available to serve patients of all backgrounds.

I urge you to vote **YES** on HB3439 and take this necessary step toward a more fair, effective, and sustainable healthcare system for all Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Curto, ND

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