

David A. Nardone
6714 NE Copper Beech Drive
Hillsboro, OR 97124

15 February 2019

Re: Comparable Pay for Naturopathic Physicians

Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Chairperson, Senate Health Care Committee

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson:

I strongly support SB-734 which **“requires individual and group health insurance policies to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians.”**

As a retired primary care internist, whose career spanned five-decades, I have witnessed many debates and heard resistance voiced to proposals for expanding scopes of practice and privileges for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, podiatrists, optometrists, psychologists, and naturopathic physicians. Of no surprise resistance emanated primarily from MDs in family medicine, internal medicine, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and psychiatry, as well as insurers.

In 2013, during my eight-year term on the Oregon Health Authority’s Workforce Committee, the members advised the Oregon Health Policy Board that the expansion of primary care workforce would be enhanced if naturopaths were officially included.

I have been and remain a strong proponent of expanding privileges for many health care disciplines as long as there were appropriate credential, privileging, and oversight controls. Similarly, I feel strongly that naturopathic physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and MD/DO physicians in primary care should be financially compensated equally for comparable work.

Sincerely,

David A. Nardone, MD
(Retired) Clinical Director Primary Care, VA Medical Center
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