

Name: Felicity Wuebkenberg

Date: 2.13.19

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Felicity Wuebkenberg and I am an RN and Acupuncturist. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

As a medical professional who has also worked on several acute care wards at one of the largest hospitals of Oregon, I have seen the value of prevention. This is what led me to seek a master's degree in the preventative medicine profession. There is a time and a place for the partnership of both standardized western medicine as well as preventative care. In my opinion, the balance of the two offers patients the best options of care, and the best overall health outcomes.

Working with ND's in particular offers a wealth of value. Complex patients can be given more options for chronic pain, tools to decrease the inflammatory response in the body, and decreasing the use of pharmacological meds (with appropriate follow up and supervision). Looking at the body from this perspective is ultimately also more cost effective for patients and the insurance companies as well. Patients deserve to have other options for their own health in healing and well-being. Not one that only treats and manages the acute ailment, but one that also has the ability to deeply restore the body's optimal functioning depending on whatever stage of life the patient may be in.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Felicity Wuebkenberg MAcOM, LAc, RN, BSN