

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kim Kelsey and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner. I would like to share my experience working with ND's to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

Our clinic is a Primary Care Medical Home in North Portland. Our healthcare team consists of two Nurse Practitioners and two Naturopathic Physicians. We see patients of all ages and provide care for acute and chronic illness. As a provider team, we share the responsibilities of medical care for every patient in our practice through after hours call coverage and same day urgent appointment coverage. In this shared responsibility, I trust that the training of the Naturopaths is on par with the training and experience of the Nurse Practitioners. We act as equals within the clinic and provide all the same services, hence should be paid as such. Having Naturopaths in our clinic is beneficial to the practice in that Naturopathic training provides for a wider scope than Nurse Practitioner training. With many patients using and seeking complementary and alternative treatment modalities, it is indispensable to have Naturopaths on staff to help oversee safe practice these modalities in addition to their ability to maintaining standards of care.

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

Sincerely,

Kim Kelsey