

February 11, 2019

Dear House and Senate Committees on Health Care:

Having retired from 40 years of active practice as an Emergency Room Physician and Primary Care provider, I have had ample experience with the practice of Naturopathic Physicians. As a group, they do a great job in the primary care field, and are very adept at preventative medicine. Their judicious use of antibiotics and narcotics is to be particularly noted. Naturopathic Physicians are well trained, with four years of medical school and often two to three years of residency.

I am impressed by their training and professionalism, yet saddened by the reimbursement rate. For Naturopathic Physicians, the years of formal education in medicine result in an incurred debt greatly exceeding that of nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Let us acknowledge and reward Naturopathic Physicians at a comparable rate for services within their scope of practice. Please correct this injustice and thereby encourage more Naturopathic Physicians to practice Primary Care in Oregon.

We need them. Thank you so much.

Paul Norris, M.D.
Oregon EMS Physician of the Year