



"Providing integrated care to individuals and families since 2006"

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February 12, 2019

Dear Senate Health Care Committee Chair and Members,

My name is **Shelda Holmes** and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner. I own a Family Practice Medical Clinic, **Hands On Medicine**. We are a **Tier 3 Patient Centered Primary Care Home (PCPCH) in North Portland**. I have provided healthcare to my community for **over 20 years**, 13 of those years as the owner of Hands On Medicine.

I currently employ **two Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)**, two Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs), one Psychologist (PsychD), and two Mental Health Therapists (LCSW and LMFT) in my clinic. I have **15 employees in total**. We provide care to **thousands of Medicaid patients** with exceptional quality and excellent quantifiable outcomes. All the healthcare providers in my clinic work as **peers and partners in healthcare delivery**. Our patients deeply respect and appreciate the professionalism and quality of care they receive in my primary care setting. **Hands On Medicine's clinic solvency hangs on pay parity for both Nurse Practitioners (for which I have participated in defending) and Naturopaths.**

As a seasoned clinician in primary care, **I am aware of the diversity in Naturopathic practice**. I am also all too aware of the **deviation from the standards of care across disciplines and licensures**. In fact, it is **my Naturopathic Doctors that often catch dubious mistakes and misses** from other providers. They are then tasked with the unraveling of a previous provider's plan of care, and they do so with precision and care.

While not every Naturopathic Physician would fit into a Family Practice Medical Clinic, many do because they **follow standards of practice expected of all primary care providers (PCPs)**. All my PCPs (NPs and NDs) have a panel of patients, urgent same day appointments, share call, and have a tremendous demand for their services. **As the Medical Director I can assure you that my NDs and NPs make excellent assessments and solid medical decisions**. In my collaborative care setting, we are constantly conferring and engaged in peer review. Every day **I read and hear direct feedback from patients that are delighted to have the high-quality care we provide.**

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill and I am inviting you to come visit Hands On Medicine. I would personally delight in showing you around a high-functioning PCPCH and successful small business.

Sincerely,

Shelda Holmes, FNP
Medical Director & Owner
Hands On Medicine
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