

Pamela Sky Jeanne ND

Date: Jan. 21,2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Pamela Jeanne and I'm a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working as an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon, and the barriers that we face in trying to deliver this care.

I graduated from a 4-year medical school training (National College of Natural Medicine, Portland, OR) in 1990. As a former RN, I worked more than 25 years in the medical system and fully understand patient care and health care delivery. It was the main reason I left that profession to become a naturopathic physician. I felt patients deserved better comprehensive care which they were NOT receiving, witnessing this first hand.

It has been a constant challenge as a solo practitioner to earn a livable wage with the reimbursement rates from insurance carriers. People are now asking for more gentle treatments and are finally getting on board with more natural therapies that help them feel well as well as return them to true good health. It's been a huge blessing to be able to offer this medicine to so many of patients.

People deserve to have options in their health care because one size does not fit all. Gentler medicine is so perfect for many, but especially children and older citizens who often do not do well with drug therapy. I have seen this again and again in practice.

Having pay equality for our profession will aid many people suffering from chronic illness and naturopathic medicine is a perfect choice. Our medicine is comprehensive, works with the natural rhythms of the body and treats the whole system. We treat the whole person not just symptoms.

My deep desire is to witness more people having access and full reimbursement to natural medicine. It only makes sense. I want my younger colleagues to be fully successful in their practice with equitable insurance payment. Our profession is credible and we deserve the same recognition as MD's.

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

Sincerely,

Pamela Sky Jeanne ND

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