

Name: Dr. Robert Graybill

Date: 2/13/2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dr. Robert Graybill and I am a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with 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.

In Oregon, I currently serve the role of a primary care provider on OHP and am also a provider credentialed with multiple other insurance companies. Some pay reasonably, and some pay as if we are providing strictly adjunctive care, which is not the case with the patient base we are serving.

In our office, we have a high mental health and complicated patient load, where we are providing natural and holistic care, but also heavy care coordination, medication management and initiation, monitoring, and vaccines to resistant individuals. Many of these individuals would likely forego care before seeking care from another type of provider. In our office, we have one physician on call 24 hours a day. Given the vast PCP shortage, giving patients the freedom to see NDs who are willing to act as PCP is important. However, it is not possible to stay afloat without Pay Parity.

When I am coordinating care with other providers, discussing their cases with surgeons and specialists, I am not doing so as adjunctive care, I am working as a physician on equal footing with the individuals I am speaking.

We cannot keep vaccines in stock without pay parity. We cannot have a staff to effectively manage a higher patient load without pay parity. We cannot successfully forecast growth and make plans to provide better care in the future without pay parity. We cannot continue to spend hours of time coordinating care as a PCP without pay parity.

ND school was a 4 to 5 years process with countless clinical hours all focused on providing holistic primary care. ND's have an equivalent level of student loan debt to pay back but are unable to access many of the programs available to MD's to help with this process. To stay available as PCP and to provide holistic care to those who choose to seek us out and to continue to provide for the public and individual health, Pay Parity must happen.

In the last year, our office has received a check for less than 20\$ as the sole pay for more than one visit. This is not sustainable.

I love my work and love working with the great variety of patients that come into our door and want to continue to provide appropriate care based on patient needs and choice. Pay Parity is necessary to continue this.

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

Sincerely,

Robert Graybill ND

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Graybill', written in a cursive style.