

Name: Shehab El-Hashemy

Date: Feb 12, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Shehab El-Hashemy and I a Naturopathic Physician licensed in the state of Oregon as a primary Care provider. I have DEA # and a national prescriber identifier.

In my daily practice I provide services that can described as comprehensive family medicine. I work in a state approved tier 4 Primary Care Home where I consistently provide the following services:

1. I provide vaccinations to children and host vaccine days (I participate in Oregon health authority VFC),
2. Sexual transmitted disease testing and treatment (in concert with county public health)
3. I prescribe, renew, refill and adjust essential medications such as those used to treat and prevent costly and potentially lethal outcome in diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cholesterol and other chronic health burdens
4. I perform periodic health examinations for children's as per the American Academy of pediatrics evidence informed Bright futures;
5. I provide periodic preventive health care services as per US preventive services service task force recommendations
6. I help patients and families eat well , exercise and process inevitable life stress well as primary strategy to ward off disease
7. I even provide free service to those who cannot afford it (under insured, uninsured,

I think you would agree that I provide a valuable and needed service to Oregonians. I am among many Naturopathic doctors unsung heroes who deliver excellent health care services. I want you to know that pay parity is one of those barriers that we as profession face in trying to deliver this care.

- I am ashamed to attest that I and other NDs in Oregon are paid less than other healthcare professional (with equivalent training a, responsibility and liability) for providing standard services – such as code 99213 follow-up visit moderate complication. Is it because the outcome are poorer, is it because we provide a lesser services, is it because others are more effective – absolutely not we have good evidence to the contrary. Its because of traditional marginalization and hegemony by insurers, dominant groups etc - which I am proud to mention that the profession worked hard to overcome. Today the profession is largely evidence based science yet uphold prevention, wellness and natural healing as guiding principles

- Why should I accept this unfair reimbursement scheme when my costs and overhead are not less and the service expectation are the same.
- I worry that at a tie where we need more family practitioners and generalists in Oregon such reimbursement rates could have an impact on recruitment and retention of ND PCPs and thus impact the health services of the state in a significant way
- I worry that the impact of this scheme may have detrimental effects on the time and quality of care that my colleges provide – to make ends meet
- I worry that I cannot support patient choice to see an ND PCP or PCPs at large in Oregon with this ongoing financial disparity.
- Its unfair and UnAmerican

I am thus kindly asking you to consider voting yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Shehab El-Hashemy
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