

Benno Lyon
PO Box 145, Corbett, OR 97019

February 7, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Benno Lyon, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I have experienced excellent outcomes from having an ND as my Primary Care Physician. We have in depth conversations about my health, we examine blood test results, set dietary and exercise goals, and build a relationship focused on fostering my wellbeing. I really enjoy having a Naturopath as my Primary Care Physician because their training includes deep knowledge about diet, as well as medicine, and they generally take more time with their patients, getting to know the whole person.

When a Naturopathic Physician isn't reimbursed at the same rate as other medical providers for the same service, the same billing codes, this is a discriminatory practice that allows insurers to create a two-tiered system. This, in turn, makes it increasingly hard for NDs to practice or make a living. Oregon has spent millions of dollars trying to retain Primary Care providers, and to allow for the disparity in pay for the same services, undercuts that very stated goal. When ND Primary Care Physicians are routinely being paid 60% what an MD/DO, a Nurse Practitioner, or even a Physician's Assistant are paid, even though their training is extensive, and in some cases, more thorough, this dynamic does not serve the best interests of the citizens of Oregon.

Please help Oregon retain great Primary Care Physicians and help the people of Oregon have choice in their medical care.

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

Sincerely,

Benno Lyon