

January 27, 2019

Subject: Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Sally Anne Carroll and I have been the patient of a Naturopathic Physician for more than 10 years. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I started receiving naturopathic care when I moved to Oregon from a state that was not as progressive in licensing naturopathic doctors as primary physicians. While I'd had reasonable MD care in the past, I was attracted to the holistic, wellness-based approach.

I have received less invasive, more thorough, compassionate and integrated health care with my naturopathic physician than I previously have received with other medical providers, including for general wellness/primary care, managing ongoing health conditions and the treatment of injuries. I believe that choosing naturopathic care has been integral to my ongoing health and well-being, and has empowered me to be in more in control of my healthcare.

I have had extremely positive experiences working with my ND, so much so that naturopathic coverage is a must-have for my primary care and also when selecting insurance plans. (That can make selecting plans a bit of challenge— something else we need to change, as empowering patients towards wellness should be a core tenet of our health system.)

As NDs provide all of the services I would expect from an MD or NP for primary care (and in my experience, they provide them better given the time spent with the patient and the whole-body approach), they should absolutely be compensated equally. I am asking that you correct this by voting yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Sally Anne Carroll