

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB772

Oregon Senate Health Committee

March 24, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Zoom+Care in support of SB772, which would require insurance carriers to compensate Naturopathic Physicians at the same level as primary care physicians.

Zoom+Care, founded and headquartered in Portland, operates about 60 on-demand primary, specialty and urgent care clinics in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Idaho. In addition to serving as Zoom+Care's CMO, I am a practicing family physician and psychiatrist. From its inception more than a decade ago, we have aimed to delight our "Sarahs" – our patient archetype – by delivering evidence-based care that eliminates, as much as possible, the administrative and time burdens health care places on patients. Everything we do is from the viewpoint of our "Sarahs" and meeting their needs.

At many of our clinics, Naturopathic Physicians are key members of our care teams. In recent years, Naturopathic Physicians have become full participants in the delivery of health care, and they have had prescriptive authority in Oregon for several years. All that is missing is fair payment for their services.

Zoom+Care incorporates Naturopathic Physicians in its care delivery team because they have demonstrated their ability to deliver high-quality, evidence-based primary care and because many of our "Sarahs" prefer Naturopathic Physicians as their primary care providers. Payor discrimination against Naturopathic Physicians is about serving *the system* rather than serving Sarahs.

It is past time to fully recognize NDs as primary care providers, on equal footing to MDs, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, including equitable payment for their professional services.

Please feel contact me if you would like to get more information from Zoom+Care or if we can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

Erik Vanderlip, MD
Chief Medical Officer