

FROM THE DESK OF

Katherine Stiles, ND

3/23/2021

Re: SB772, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Dr. Katherine Stiles and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support SB772. I have a unique position in this field as the first ND hired at The Oregon Clinic – a specialty group of over 200 providers.

CPT codes are the language of medical billing and are numerical codes used to identify medical services and procedures furnished by qualified healthcare professionals (QHPs). In the state of Oregon, I am a licensed and qualified healthcare professional who is expected to utilize the same CPT and diagnostic codes for billing and documenting appropriate patient care as other doctorate and advanced practice providers. Without SB772, when I bill for these codes, commercial insurance companies can discriminate against compensating me the contracted rate allotted to other providers in my organization (MD, DO, NP, PA) exclusively because of my ND status. Without SB772 insurance companies pay other providers as much as 10 times more in reimbursement for the same code, service, and setting. That could be a revenue difference of \$400 for a masters educated nurse practitioner performing a procedure and \$40 for myself, a doctorate level, 3-year residency trained ND, performing the exact same procedure, in the same setting, for the same diagnosis. This creates a great economic disadvantage making it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice, be on an integrative team in a primarily conventional medical groups who understandably prefer higher reimbursement providers, deliver this essential and unique level of care, pay back student loans, remain in Oregon to raise a family, and give back to the community.

I am asking you to vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Stiles, ND