

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Rev. David T Pace and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support SB772.

In 1998 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and referred by an RN working for the American Cancer Society to Dr Edie Vickers, ND, for supportive care to help prepare my body for the major surgery I was facing. I began working with Dr Vickers immediately and have continued for 23 years. She has been a key part of my medical team seeing me through two invasive surgeries and a variety of serious medical issues. I work with many types of medical providers and few take the time and show the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I receive from her helps me manage my complex health conditions.

Unfortunately right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contribution to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care that is critical to my overall well being.

My ND teaches me about diet, nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep, and more. All of these things are vital to me managing my life at this stage.

I ask you to vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. David T Pace
Portland, OR 97232