

March 24, 2021

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

To the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Gretchen Newmark, MA, RDN (dietitian in private practice in Portland) and I am a patient of Edie Vickers, a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I have 13 years' experience working with her as a medical provider and with this experience as a basis, strongly request that you to please support SB772.

I have an internal medicine specialist, a dermatologist, and oncologist and a gynecologist, and each is a good physician, none takes the time, listens as well, nor is as thoughtful as my naturopathic physician, Dr. Vickers. They spend the same number of years in medical school as allopathic doctors and have the same education in medicine and the basic sciences.

Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their time, skill, expertise and caring. I think it is grossly unfair and irresponsible and demonstrates an illogical bias among licensed doctors. This makes it more difficult for people like me to pay for this specialized care, and it limits healthcare choice.

My ND, Dr. Vickers, manages most of my healthcare needs, including helping me with the side effects of cancer treatment, collaborating with my surgeon and oncologist. She refers me to other doctors and care providers when necessary and is a good source for sound referrals. She takes the time to help me with how I eat, exercise, sleep and generally take care of myself. She and the other ND's I have been taken care of over the years are a precious resource in the state of Oregon. Please see to it that they are paid fairly commensurate with other physicians.

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

Sincerely yours,

Gretchen Newmark, MA, RDN

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