

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Mary Britton. Over the years I have worked with many, many Naturopathic doctors. I have had the most comprehensive, patient focused care imaginable. As I am a Medical Communications Specialist who trains medical professionals in vital communications skills, cultural competency, exam skills and more, I can attest to the differences I have found between ordinary clinic care and my Naturopaths office.

1) Naturopaths typically spend more time with me

2) ND's (naturopaths) typically ask more questions about my general health and how it might relate to my chief complaint

3) Naturopath offices are very health conscious spaces, with natural light and ventilation. I never have to deal with harsh lights (I am photosensitive) or chemical smells that make me snuffle

4) I feel that my body and health are treated as part of a whole, not just for example, my chest, foot, elbow or stomach.

5) I have experienced the highest level of respect as a person, not just a patient

I AND my family have worked with many types of medical providers, and **none** have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

I am a healthier person - ergo have less need to "drain" the medical system.

Unfortunately, **right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state.**

This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. **It also limits my choices** when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s).

They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate.

In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

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

Sincerely yours,

Mary Britton, MA