

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is April Hansen and I am a Registered Nurse. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a nurse and ask you to please support SB772.

I have had the opportunity to work with Naturopathic Doctors and appreciate the unique and valuable skill set and approach to care that they offer. I have always found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable and well trained clinically. Most importantly I have witnessed the positive impact the care from and ND has in the health and life of their patient, most importantly that of preventative care in an ongoing health crisis. In addition, ND's provide acute care that is commiserate with their MD peers, yet are compensated at a fraction in comparison. This makes no sense.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like them to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for me and my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those ND's who have been able to stay in practice, they do so at a great economic disadvantage to their peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community, and pay their RN's and clinic staff at market value. This has a trickle down effect of poverty and lack of care.

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

Sincerely yours,
April Hansen, RN