

Dear Senate -

I am a Naturopathic doctor and I no longer take insurance. One of the main reasons is that insurance does not pay well for naturopathic doctors(ND). There are many ways insurers are discriminatory to naturopathic doctors, but paying us less for the same job as an MD is the worst insult. Although as a ND, I have the same scope of practice as a licensed PCP in Oregon, I am paid less than others doing the same work as an MD. Our schooling and debt is just as large as going to MD school. We need to be paid equally. Insurers hold the power of our livelihood and patient access to our care. I'm currently debating whether to work in Washington with pay parity laws, or to move to California where patients are willing to pay cash for my services. Right now, Oregon is not cutting it. By supporting this bill, you are supporting doctors to stay in your state.

Ellerie Jean Nagy, ND, LAc