

FROM THE DESK OF

## Dr. Carrie Baldwin-Sayre

March 30, 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Carrie Baldwin-Sayre and I am the Associate Dean for Health and Wellbeing at Reed College, and a licensed Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community, as well as the barriers I have faced in delivering this care. As such, I ask you to please support SB772.

I became a physician in order to help and support my community members to become as healthy as they want to be. This is typical of naturopathic doctors who have sacrificed so much to become physicians. We love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

NDs often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. We also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, ND's focus on the prevention of disease by teaching their patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

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 me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. Because of poor or absent insurance reimbursement, I actually left private practice and the full time direct care of patients! As a physician working in a certified patient-centered primary care home, these difficulties limited access to primary healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,



**Carrie Baldwin-Sayre, ND**

**Past-President, Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians**