

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Linnea Nilsen Capshaw and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support SB772.

I have worked with many types of medical providers over the years, as a patient, 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 top-notch care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my multiple and complex health conditions and genetics, but has provided me excellent healthcare.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. 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. In fact, they should be paid more as their approach addresses the whole person and requires incredible knowledge, holistic systems approach and ability to prioritize care.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription (s). She also refers me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate, for example a menopause specialist and dermatologist. In addition, she teaches 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 holistic and complete treatment plan for my health and I have improved dramatically in 6 months since working with my primary ND in Portland.

I am asking you to vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. And if you haven't gone to one yourself as a patient, do so. You will experience for yourself the difference!!!

Sincerely yours,
Linnea Nilsen Capshaw