

FROM THE DESK OF

Juliette Soihl, ND

March 27th, 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is **Juliette Soihl** and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support SB772.

I love helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine in my local community. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I teach my 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. It also limits access to 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. As a single working Mom, this kind of economic disadvantage really impacts my quality of life.

Additionally, over the last year as the Corona virus pandemic has ravaged our state, it has become clear that those with comorbidities are more at risk. ND's excel at preventing and improving these comorbidities such as Diabetes, Obesity and Cardiovascular disease with diet and lifestyle modifications. If more ND's could afford to be in private practice and more organizations could employ ND's by being fairly compensated for their work, these comorbidities could be more widely addressed and the health of our state could become more resilient.

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

Sincerely yours,

Juliette Soihl, ND