

March 30, 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Kathleen Cannon 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, and few have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. **The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions but actually get back to a better level of health.**

Instead of immediately finding a medication my naturopath has found the underlying issues and look at the whole system to create a plan of treatment.

My Naturopathic physician has also coordinated care when needed and has even participated in coordinated care conferenced as needed.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state.

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.**

Even my health insurance pays a minimal amount for a 30 minute to hour appointment. **Imagine making \$18.38 out of an approved \$48.38 for an hour of care as happened for one of my recent appointments!**

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s), though my insurance will not pay her to do my annual exam **and I am required to go to a primary care Dr who doesn't know me to have an annual exam!**

She is not able to be my primary care Dr as it is not an option for insurance companies because of the law. She also refers me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate.

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 complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to PLEASE VOTE YES on SB772 and SUPPORT FAIR PAY for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours, Kathleen Cannon