

FROM THE DESK OF

Katherine Neubauer, ND, FABNO

March 31, 2021

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

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Katherine Neubauer 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 HB2673.

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 am the only oncology board-certified naturopathic doctor in Central Oregon. I partner closely with medical and radiation oncologists to help patients tolerate their life-saving cancer care and decrease cancer recurrence risk. I manage prescriptions, lab and imaging orders, and health screenings. 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 adequately compensate our staff, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Neubauer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katherine Neubauer, ND, FABNO