

March 26, 2021

RE: SB772 Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors(ND)

Dear Senate & Health Care Committee Members

My name is Charlotte Smith and I am a patient of Dr. Tyler Keliheleua N.D. AND your constituent. I am asking you to support SB772. I strongly believe in this Bill and here are my reasons why I think this bill should be passed.

For 10 years + I suffered from acid reflux so much so that I had to sleep almost sitting up. I was given medication to reduce the acid reflux by MDs. After going to Dr. Keliheleua, he explained the need to get my digestive system working better and therefore not having the food and acid back up into my esophagus. I no longer have this problem thanks to the **knowledge** of Dr. Keliheleua. This knowledge from a Naturopathic doctor was a different way of looking at the problem just like when you go to a specialist. I believe it is knowledge that cannot be looked down upon but should be valued.

With SB772 insurance companies will be stopped from discriminating against Naturopathic Doctors. Why is the legislature allowing insurance companies to **DISCRIMINATE** against this section of the medical field of expertise. Naturopathic doctors have doctorate degrees. They do the same things that MDs do like annual exams, prescribe medications, refer patients to specialist. They are licensed and regulated by the State. Naturopathic Doctors have worked hard to earn their degree and they have student loans to prove it. Some insurance companies are compensating them at a far much lower rate than nurse practitioners who have far less schooling. Other insurance companies do not compensate Naturopathic Doctors therefore causing the patient to pay out of pocket for their services.

By passing SB772, I will have a **CHOICE**. As a consumer, **I will get to choose** who I want as a doctor. I do not want the insurance companies dictating which doctor I should go to. They're only looking out for their profits while I'm trying to manage my health care. I feel I am being limited in my choices as to who can help me with my health issues because they won't compensate Naturopathic doctors like they do MDs.

Please pass SB772 so that Naturopathic Doctors are **acknowledged as Doctors and are paid accordingly, not discriminated against by insurance companies and I get choose my doctor.**

Your constituent

Charlotte Smith