

Kathy Kirkpatrick
Bend, OR 97702

March 29, 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Kathy Kirkpatrick and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I was referred to my ND by my oncologist at the St. Charles Cancer Center. 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, 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 competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

My experience with stage 4 carcino sarcoma has been smoothed in several ways by the knowledge and help I received from my naturopath. The things that she could advise me on were not even close to being addressed by my oncology team.

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. Often I will delay appointments because I have to cash pay for them.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. She also referred me to other excellent providers and competent specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress and improve my sleep. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and that I am the better off for and so grateful for.

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

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Kirkpatrick