

FROM THE DESK OF

Michelle von Heideken

3-30-2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Michelle von Heideken and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND), specifically a Naturopathic Oncologist. 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 still see my regular oncologist, but my naturopathic physician has taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare above and beyond the norm. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my post-cancer care but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. This is especially true during the pandemic, in which time the televisits have been many and long.

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.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach 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 vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Y. von Heideken