

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Lindsay Rodgers and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support SB772.

I love connecting with patients and helping them navigate the medical system. I have sought out mentorship and additional trainings to become competent in prescribing medication for a variety of psychiatric illnesses. As you may know there is an overwhelming demand for mental health care and much of this responsibility is left to primary care providers, such as naturopaths, when there is a shortage of psychiatric prescribers. Many of my patients seek out naturopathic care because they are distrustful of the conventional medical system, which is a concerning trend throughout the country. I take the time to listen to my patients and I have gained their trust. With this trust I can communicate the importance of treatments recommended by other doctors, such as taking the blood pressure medication from their cardiologist, getting vaccinated, and continuing their antipsychotic or antidepressant.

I manage many aspects of my patients' healthcare, including ordering labs and writing prescriptions. I also make referrals to other competent 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.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated. This makes it difficult for people like me to stay in practice. Many of my peers are considering leaving medicine because the compensation is not worth the stress and liability that comes with being a physician. For those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage, making it difficult to 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,

Dr. Lindsay Rodgers