

I am asking you to vote YES on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also places them at a great economic disadvantage to their healthcare peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise their families, and give back to the community. Alongside this, it limits access to healthcare and choice of healthcare for many individuals and families in the community.

I am a Naturopathic Physician with over \$350,000 in student loans (courtesy of a federal student loan interest rate that is higher than my credit cards and mortgage rates). After 7 years of practice, I stopped practicing medicine as the reimbursement rates from insurance companies were a fraction of other providers. I was an employee in a medical office for several years and was paid less than Physician Assistants (who only have 2 years of medical training and cannot practice without an overseeing physician) due to the reimbursement rates from insurance companies being higher for PAs than for NDs. I find it absurd that I'm considered a Primary Care Physician in the state of Oregon, however the insurance companies are not required to reimburse my services on par with other Primary Care Physicians.

Thank you for your consideration for fair payment for equal work.