

April 1, 2021

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

Dear Member of the Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Mark Bricca and I am a licensed 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 have specialized in integrative oncology since I completed medical school in 2008. In spite of having a busy, successful practice, I still carry over \$300,000 in federal student loans from my graduate medical education. For me, my work is truly a labor of love—it is fundamentally about being of service to others, and I see every day the difference my efforts make in people's lives.

I offer a wide range of care in my work with cancer patients, encompassing everything from therapeutic nutrition, lifestyle counseling, botanical medicines, and pharmaceutical prescriptions. I order specialized testing, and I also serve as a patient advocate when I offer highly individualized guidance to help patients select care that is a best fit for them. In addition, I have a large referral network, and I am often the sole member of patients' teams who coordinates care between all their practitioners.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and continue delivering this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community. And for those of us who have been able to stay in practice, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise our families and give back to our communities.

For these reasons, I am asking you to vote yes on SB772 to support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Bricca, ND, MAc