

I am asking you to vote YES on SB772 and support fair pay for naturopathic doctors. As a parent of two children who have benefitted greatly from the care of naturopathic physicians, I know that NDs provide much needed care that isn't available from most MDs. NDs provide knowledge of and access to a wide array of treatments that carry less risk to patients than many medical interventions and that can be provided at much lower cost. I know that my use of ND services has reduced the total health care costs of my family, although using them has resulted in higher costs for our family because of their exclusion from insurance plans.

The holistic approach that NDs take to health encourages disease prevention and healthy living. Compensating them equally with other physicians could greatly benefit public health in this state while reducing overall health care costs.

Failing to fairly compensate NDs for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon makes it more difficult for them 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.

For the health of my family and all Oregonians, I strongly encourage the passage of this bill.