

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Clifford J. Telfer, and I have been a patient of multiple Naturopathic Doctors (NDs). I appreciate the opportunity to share my experiences working with NDs as medical providers and ask you to please support SB772.

I have just endured a year-long bout with esophageal cancer. Thanks to my specialists and support from my ND, I appear to have recovered. Over several years, I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physicians. The level of education, support, competent care, and attention to detail that I have received has helped me move forward with my health issues and revived my faith in the healthcare system. The exceptional care I've received has made an enormous difference in my life quality and probably extended my life.

Unfortunately, right now, NDs are not fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in the State of Oregon. This lack of proper compensation makes it more difficult for people like me to access their unique and essential level-of-care because I must pay out-of-pocket to access their expertise. It also severely limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

NDs manage my annual physicals, lab orders, health screenings, and prescriptive needs. My ND has also referred me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. She has taught and continues to teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep, and how to be more proactive in my healthcare. My care was significantly advanced by the specialized recommendations made by my ND. All of these things come together to create a 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,

Cliff Telfer

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