

FROM THE DESK OF

Eliza Hofkosh-Hulbert, ND, LAc.

March 31, 2021

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Dr. Eliza Hofkosh-Hulbert. I am an 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 helping people. This is why I have sacrificed years of my life and hundreds of thousands in tuition for my education to become a physician and practice medicine in my community. I love connecting with my patients, and taking the time to help them both truly understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

In accordance with my training and the primary care scope of practice that we NDs hold in Oregon, I manage the majority of the healthcare needs for many of my patients, including annual physicals, lab testing, health screenings, prescriptions, and referrals to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. Additionally, my training as a naturopathic doctor allows me to teach all my patients in comprehensive, practical ways about diet and nutrition, exercise, stress management, improving sleep, and other foundations of preventative medicine— which both improves their health and reduces future healthcare costs. Due to my training as an ND, when necessary I am also able to deeply investigate unusual symptoms and chronic conditions, and often am able to find a diagnosis and treatment plan for patients who are suffering, often after they have been told by conventional primary care physicians or specialists that nothing was wrong. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my patients' health. All of these things require not only my passion and commitment to serving my patients, but also significant investments of *my time* both during patient visits and outside the office for ongoing research and scholarship.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limits access to healthcare for my patients and for other individuals and families in our community. 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 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 yours,



Dr Eliza Hofkosh-Hulbert