

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

Dear Senate Health Care Committee,

My name is Jeff Dean and I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support SB772.

I believe the existing medical infrastructure in the US is deeply flawed. The Big Food industries have long been feeding Big Pharma, and the medical establishment has been complicit in the cyclical exploitation of otherwise unaware citizens. We keep following the same destructive diets and inevitably medicating the resulting illnesses.

My experience with ND's, and (one in particular) has been 180 degrees from some of the terse, "take two of these" diagnoses and prescriptions from the MD's I have visited. She takes a 360 degree approach to understand and address any pathologies. Our lives are "many-legged" stools, and she takes the time and care to ensure that the components are working together to enhance overall outcomes. In addition, the underlying science is as robust as traditional medicine(if not more).

As you are aware, Oregon NDs are not fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. As a consequence, a wall is placed in front of me and others, restricting access to an extremely worthwhile and viable alternative. The relative cost differential makes it nearly impossible to choose this unique level of care. We should not be discouraged from seeking potentially more appropriate healthcare options.

Accordingly, I am asking you to vote yes on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Dean