

I wanted to reach out to you and thank you for responding on my prior email. I hope that it's not too much of an imposition for me to bring another issue to your attention that has just been brought to mine. I have a naturopathic doctor that I work with in Portland, she's the best and she's keeping me in good health into my 50's. Recently, she let me know that insurance companies currently reimburse NDs as little as 20% and up to about 60% of the amount that MDs, DO, NPs, DNPs, and PAs are reimbursed for billing the exact same codes and providing the exact same services.

She sent me the following example:

If an MD were to bill a code that reimbursed them say \$100, we, as NDs, would only be reimbursed \$20-\$60, despite providing the same service. This disparity makes it difficult for NDs to stay in practice and often also forces hands in which insurance companies we can afford to credential with. Speaking for myself, I am not in this for the money, I am in our field to truly help as much as I can with anyone who might want the care NDs provide, but it does limit how many people we can help. And as many of you know, I do not want to directly bill you, I want to bill the insurance company you are already paying hundreds or even thousands of dollars each month for access to health care.

I am asking you to vote YES on SB772 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for NDs 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. Alongside this, it limits access to healthcare and choice of healthcare for many individuals and families in the community. Thank you for your consideration.