

February 10, 2021

Dear Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education;

My name is Onyria Gillmor, ND. I live in Multnomah county, and I practice naturopathic medicine in Washington and Multnomah counties. I've been licensed by the state of Oregon since 2014.

My profession has continued to fight for equitable treatment from health insurers and other barriers for proper inclusion with the rest of the primary provider types. As such, now is not the time to be relegating our profession to management under the Oregon Health Authority. This movement will not be helpful towards our goals of providing quality care to the residents of Oregon as well as providing fair and decent incomes for naturopathic physicians so that we may continue to provide that care.

The minuscule financial efficiency that might be gained by this consolidation pales in comparison to the risks and uncertainties that will undoubtedly result from this move for the members of our profession.

I think I can speak on behalf of all of my colleagues, when I say that I would rather pay higher licensing fees in order to keep our licensing board independent than to be subjected to the unnecessary and numerous layers of management by the Oregon Health Authority. This is not in the best interest of our profession or the communities that we have indebted our lives to serve.

Sincerely,

Onyria Gillmor, ND