

Dear Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education ;

My name is Rebecca Principe, ND. I live and practice in Multnomah County, and I've been licensed by the state of Oregon since 2013. As my profession continues to struggle for equitable treatment from health insurers and works to break down other barriers for appropriate inclusion with the rest of the primary provider types, now is not the time to bury our licensing board under multiple layers of management inside the Oregon Health Authority.

The amount of time and effort required for this transition appears significant. My profession can't help but perceive risk from this move given the history of what the profession has had to endure all these years since the first license was issued.

The state is looking for some small financial efficiency from this consolidation. Whatever that amount is cannot compare to the risks and uncertainties from this change in structure.

I and the rest of my colleagues would rather pay higher licensing fees in order to keep our licensing board independent. We need to avoid unnecessary supervision and hazardous layers of management that are most likely uninformed about naturopathic medicine. I believe this proposed change could greatly jeopardize our ability to function as a real and viable healthcare choice for Oregonians.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Rebecca Principe