

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Cindy Meyer and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have been a patient of a naturopathic physician for a few years now. I receive quality care that is above any other regular doctor that I have seen in the past. They listen to my concerns and offer alternative options for my medical care that work. They do not try to force traditional medical procedures on me, but offer them if I ask for it. I have other family members that also are under the same care and have benefited greatly from it.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? And why do many insurance companies offer little to no support for them? They deserve the same pay as any other traditional physician, if not more.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Cindy Meyer

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Caitlin Hudson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I believe patient choice is essential in healthcare because the body and mind are complex, and not every treatment will work for each person. We've fallen away from times of personal relationships and in depth, holistic care and I think naturopaths bring this spirit back into healthcare. Healthier people = a more stable population = a thriving economy = benefit for all!

I've worked with NDs for general health, athletic health, and now as a pregnant woman. Each time I've been so grateful to have their care, but disappointed when their services are not covered in the same way by insurance.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Hudson

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tari and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

There is no question the vital integrity that Naturopathic doctors provide to their patients. The care is typically more in-depth and highly personalized. You are appreciated as a human and given the time needed to customize healthful treatment plans. I cannot emphasize enough how much NDs have helped me on my personal journey, from motherhood to beyond, as well as my child. NDs are perfectly equipped to handle and treat any illness and injury, and will refer if it's a specialty. I have never received anything but care and attention from several of the Naturopaths I've worked with. They are just as deserving of the highest compensation as an MD. There is no question.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Tari

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kelly Redd and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have had many positive experiences working with multiple Naturopathic Physicians. I have never felt more cared for than when I am working with an ND. My ND's always take my total health into account rather than just treating whatever symptom I am experiencing. Last year, I struggled with a bacterial infection that my primary care MD could not figure out. It was only when I sought out the care of an NP that I was successfully treated. If I did not go to my NP, there is a possibility that the infection could have caused permanent damage to my reproductive organs and I would no longer be able to have children.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. The Naturopaths of Oregon deserve equal pay to medical doctors.

Sincerely,
Kelly Redd

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Ellen Scott and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I started seeing a Naturopathic Physician about 5 years ago when I could not get my thyroid care managed with an endocrinologist. The ND I have been seeing has taken all the time necessary to listen to my issues (fatigue, depression, brain fog) that stem from my thyroid issues, carefully test different combinations of medication and find EXACTLY what works for me, individually. No other provider has taken this time to help me, and it has been life changing. There was no treating me to the average or shrugging her shoulders when I was "in range" but still felt miserable.

Additionally, an ND/Midwife has delivered both my children with the same attention to my individual needs and preferences. While I was just a number with the OBGYN that I began my prenatal care with, the ND/Midwife that I transitioned to honored and medically supported my birth plan, provided excellent care and I fully attribute my two beautiful births the leaving traditional medicine for more individualized care of a Naturopath.

Lastly, I appreciate that I can have the best of both worlds in my healthcare with a Naturopath. I fully trust my ND to tell me when more traditional medical intervention is necessary, and when we can try a more natural approach. This type of personalized, careful care should be the standard all providers strive for and I am so grateful that I have access to it through my insurance.

Given my exceptional experience with NDs, I cannot understand why naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen. Access to this care has changed my life for the better so many times over. I would hope that insurance companies and politicians don't stand in the way of fair pay for these invaluable medical professionals.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Ellen Scott

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Tambra Russum and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I was born and raised in Oregon, and I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have had only positive experiences working with an ND – who has helped me negative my way to becoming healthy. I started seeing an ND 15 years ago, and my health has changed for the better. I do not need to take any medications – and I am extremely active.

I find ND's to be a very important choice for patients regarding their own healthcare.
Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?
I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Tambra Russum

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emily and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.
After years of seeing primary care MD physicians as a nameless patient who gets 10 minutes with the doctor, I sought an ND to help me with some medical issues. I was pleasantly surprised to find how caring and thorough ND's are compared to some MD's. The atmosphere with ND's is warm and caring and they seek to understand a holistic perspective on all issues, including allopathic. It's made a tremendous difference in my physical and mental wellbeing. Of course there are great MD's out there as well, but I don't understand why naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen. They offer the same, if not more, skill and time to each patient. I am asking that you please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Emily Yeomans

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Colette Govan and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages many of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health. Their education is similar to other doctors and they are aware of the importance nutrition has for the overall health of a patient.

Over and above, my Naturopathic Doctor often sends me emails to answer a quick question I have even after hours at times. She sincerely takes an interest in following up on my health, which in my experience, is rare indeed. I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Colette Govan

Please support HB2673. I am the patient of a naturopathic physician and feel IÂ receive better care from my ND than I do from many MDs providing primary care. NDs order tests, prescribe medications, complete physical exams and do minor procedures all the same as MDs, but receive less compensation. It is important that NDs receive equal pay as MDs for the same services and skills they provide.

Thank you,
Jenny Baker

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Angela and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

After 20 years of chronic migraines and seeking all possible medical options, I finally found relief through working with Dr. Khivan Oberoi, a skilled ND. She asked questions, ran tests, and recommended treatments that no medical doctor did. After working with her for a few months and following her recommendations my migraines FINALLY subsided and my quality of life improved greatly. I did not have to take frequent sick days due to my condition.

Unfortunately, all of these visits are VERY costly. But at the moment, it is worth it to find relief and for my quality of life. However, I cannot sustain this cost and I can't imagine being a patient who could never afford these costs to begin with.

That being said, insurance companies MUST pay Naturopathic Doctors the same amount that other medical providers receive so they can continue their fantastic work!!

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Angela Harkness

Dear Senator Wagner and Representative Prusak,

We are your constituents. We are asking for your support for HB2673 which relates to fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors in Oregon. Currently in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated by several health insurance companies for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this state. This situation makes it more difficult for people like us to access this important and essential medical care.

Naturopathic Medicine is a valuable compliment to traditional medicine. We are asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Respectfully and Sincerely,
Antoinette and James Mountain

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dori Wilkins and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

First, I would like to say that I believe that naturopathic medicine is not recognized as it should be because of a lack of understanding or a level of ignorance on the subject. So please give me a few minutes to help educate you.

I have Hashimoto's Disease. This affects my thyroid. I have battled this condition for over 30 years. Many of the symptoms of Hashimoto's are as follows:

- Weight gain
- Fatigue
- Paleness or puffiness of the face
- Joint and muscle pain
- Constipation
- Inability to get warm
- Difficulty getting pregnant
- Hair loss or thinning, brittle hair
- Irregular or heavy menstrual periods
- Depression
- Slowed heart rate

For 28 of those years I went to several doctors, endocrinologists and specialists. None of those doctors and specialists did more than monitor and prescribe more medications, usually increasing or decreasing my one thyroid medication. As the years went on, I started feeling hopeless that anyone could help me. Then I decided to try a naturopathic doctor that many of my co-workers at Salem Health go to for their hormone and thyroid issues. She is the first person that took the time to investigate and treat my condition successfully. I have never had anyone figure out how to get my condition under control, except for her. For 2 years now, my thyroid has been successfully managed with a combination of pharmaceuticals and herbal medicine. I finally feel "normal". To not have to live with the systems of untreated Hashimoto's Disease is amazing! I wish I would have found Dr. Oberoi a very long time ago so that I would not have had to live the way I did for so many years.

Luckily, my employer, Salem Health, recognizes that alternative medicine is important and seeing a naturopath is covered by our insurance. This type of medicine should be recognized for what it is, how it benefits individuals and it should be equally covered under all medical plans.

Not everyone wants another "pill" or "chemical" from a pharmaceutical company. Most medicine is derived or created based on a plant or component of what is in a natural substance. Scientists can isolate the chemicals in plants and animals that treat certain ailments. Over time, they are able to create those substances artificially and use them to produce medicines.

I have worked in the medical field for 17 years, all at Salem Health. The things I have seen, experienced and learned have helped me understand that pharmaceuticals and "natural" supplements can work hand in hand to successfully treat conditions that pharmaceuticals cannot treat successfully on their own.

Everyone should have the choice and right to seek care from a naturopath and have that care covered by medical insurance just as if they were to see their PCP or specialist in the field for which they are seeking care. In my case, my ND has done more for me medically than any PCP or specialist I have ever received care from and I am truly lucky that my employer and medical insurance carrier recognize how beneficial a ND can be to anyone. Not all PCP's or specialists know "everything". If an alternative to "regular" medical care is offered, it should be treated as equally as any other medical treatment.

Additionally, naturopathic care is including people of different races, cultures and religions. It comes down to diversity, inclusion and equality for everyone.

It is my hope that this letter has given you some understanding of the value of a Naturopathic Doctor.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Dori Wilkins

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Erin Baker and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I go to a Naturopathic Physician because I have adverse reactions to many pharmaceutical medications and regular GPs or specialist don't always want to try other alternatives. Naturopathic Physicians also work with the whole person not just the symptoms.

Also, I have worked in the clinical field and know that GPs do not take the time to really get to know their patients and frequently are encouraged to push certain medication.

In addition, as citizens of this country we are required by law to carry health insurance but, our health insurance does cover/pay the health care provider who best fits us and our needs. There is something wrong with this picture and part of it that insurance companies have been allowed to discriminate, control and deny their costumers the services that we pay for and are forced to carry.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Erin P. Baker

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Julie Lawrence and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor Edie Vickers (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Julie M Lawrence

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Cheryl Baker and my primary licensed physician of 25 years is a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

My entry into naturopathic health care was spurred by the inability to find answers to persistent health issues in the allopathic field. The time and care my physician commits to maintaining the health and wellness of my total being continues to this day. This compassionate level of care and sincere interest in my health surpasses every experience I've had throughout the years with other medical professionals.

Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

Recently my insurance company decreased coverage for naturopathic visits to 6 per year from the prior years coverage which "allowed" a shared 18 visits between THREE SEPARATE medical physicians: Chiropractic, Acupuncture, and Naturopath. I was told that insurance would be provided (for unlimited visits) for physicians that specialized in: Adult Medicine, General Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Gynecology, and Internal Medicine . . . all of which my physician has effectively provided to me over the last 25 years. Not all physicians are being treated with the same respect for the same, and at times superior and less invasive, contributions to the health maintenance of their patients.

I find the insurance inequality in the health care system disrespectful to thousands of trained physicians/doctors that effectively treat thousands of patients to maintain their health and well-being with the training, skills, knowledge, and integrity to recognize when allopathic medicine is an appropriate alternative for their patients to pursue.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Thank you for your support,
Cheryl

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Vivian Coles and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Vivian Coles, MA, LPC

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Lin Reedijk and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and few have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Lin Reedijk

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Anastasia Brown and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I think it is unfair not to have Naturopathic Physicians covered just as well as a regular MD as they have much if not all of the same education. We deserve to have a healthcare provider that works with the patient to support their health in a proactive and a conscientious fashion while focusing on support of the body through non-pharma methods. Some of us won't take them, so please allow us a health-care provider that can provide the support we need.

A naturopath seeks to find the root cause of issues as opposed to MD's who seem to just want to throw a pharmaceutical at a problem. This is not for me. I went through that most of my young life and I don't feel that is health care at all.

It doesn't seem right that in the end our naturopath's get paid less than their MD counterparts when they have had the same base education before furthering their education in order to become a naturopath. Additionally I should not have to come up with more out-of-pocket funds in order to go to a naturopath. I should have this choice. A naturopath is a well-educated professional and should be more fairly treated as such.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

Additionally, as Oregonians, we are ground-breakers. Let's punch through this barrier and do what is right for our health care professionals and show the way for other state's.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Anastasia Brown
Salem, Oregon

Dear OANP Legislative Committee and to all who this concerns,

My name is Joan Gale Frank and I am an Oregon constituent. Here in our state we have a treasure in the form of highly educated and skilled NDs who serve as the primary medical team to many of us.

I've found that the naturopathic doctors have treated me and found the answers to various medical conditions that MDs have not. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and few have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has helped me move forward with my health conditions.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it difficult for many people to access this essential level of care. It also limits our choices. Insurance companies should pay these licensed NDs more than they currently are paying.

The ND's often keep people OUT of the hospital through their preventative approach and help alleviate chronic illnesses, often with fewer traditional prescriptions.

All of this can SAVE insurance companies money.

Therefore, it is in the insurance company's best interest to pay ND's fairly so that they can keep working and make it more likely that new ND's join the industry and start practices.

Ultimately if insurance company's compensated ND's more fairly, it will save both patients and insurance companies money, reduces illness, and improves productivity in the Oregon workplace.

I urge you to support Oregon's Naturopaths, an important resource in our state by advocating to pay ND's a fairer, higher, well-deserved amount.

Thank you,
Joan Gale Frank

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Cheryl M. Willis and I am a patient of Edythe Vickers, Naturopathic Doctor (ND). My experiences of working with Dr. Vickers, ND and other naturopathic doctors need your support in HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers. Most medical professional, known as MDs, have prescribed useless MRIs, CTs and medications that counteract with disastrous effects.

Yet, the care that I have received from Edythe Vickers, ND has been outstanding, diagnosed on point, and treated with long lasting positive effects.

An exceptional naturopathic doctor, as Edythe Vickers, approaches each patient with personal attention and the ability to provide treatment for the whole body, not just an isolated issue. It is through a wholistic approach--mind, body and spirit--that the patient is cared for.

The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon Naturopathic Doctors are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

Edythe Vickers, Naturopathic Doctor, manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). She also refers me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, she teaches me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Cheryl M. Willis

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Nancy Burdick and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the many of my healthcare needs. They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Burdick

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Valerie Bluemel and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. This includes an injury I received during a required surgery, among many other conditions and situations over the past decade.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare. Along, with my insurance often not paying for an ND, except for acupuncture, and even then this may not be covered.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Valerie Bluemel

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Peggy Naumann. I have been a patient of Naturopathic Doctor Edythe Vickers for more than 30 years. I am also your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care for my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support, and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. My ND has managed many of my healthcare needs whether it be infections, lab orders, health screenings, or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me far better than most other medical professionals about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep, and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health, and I have never felt better.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Peggy Naumann, LMT

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Laura and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to health care in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Laura Di Trapani

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND has been essential in managing my healthcare needs. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Pamela Neferkara

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Daniel Keliheleua and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). He also refers me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, he instructs me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote YES on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Keliheleua

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Samantha Willow and I've been a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) for about two decades, and your constituent. I ask you to please support HB2673 because I don't know what I would have done without my ND. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. She's the one I consider my Go To doctor. She's the one who diagnosed my SIBO, and has enabled me to beat back this chronic condition, and keep it under control. She's the one who first diagnosed the results of the blood work I'd had done for an eye condition that revealed only 15% kidney function. She makes sense to me of the blood work and the recommendations of my nephrologist. She's helped me get what I need from my gastroenterologist as well. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me with my health conditions, but has actually given me faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs She has also referred me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, she teaches me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things create a more complete treatment plan for my health, all of which are great reassurances in times of concern.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Samantha Willow

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Liz Howell and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Liz Howell

Hey there,

I am a public interest attorney at a nonprofit organization and am able to do what I do—fighting to protect communities and natural resources—thanks to fantastic medical support from my Naturopathic Doctor.

Her attention to detail, high-quality service, and effective therapies do more good for my body and mind than any traditional medical help that I've received for day-to-day and chronic issues. She doesn't hesitate to refer me to traditional doctors and medicines when needed to address other issues. NDs deserve to be compensated for their valuable contributions to society.

As a physician, I hope that you understand the importance of this issue.

Please vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Best,
Lizzy

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Kimberly Warner and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Kimberly Warner

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Jewel Reid and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare system in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Jewel Reid

I write in support of impending legislation to ensure pay equity for Naturopathic Doctors. My good health, at 76, is due almost entirely to the medicine offered by the ND community of Portland, Oregon to me over the last 30 years. Since I have paid out of pocket, happily (I do not have insurance that covers alternative medicine), I was unaware that this inequitable pay structure exists, and hasten to add my support to that of the medical community and the many people who are well served in rectifying this with legislation.

Sincerely,
Carol Ferris

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages many of my healthcare needs. They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Joan Ausubel

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Judith Johnson (Judi), and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon. Myself and several of my children have been receiving treatment from Naturopathic Physicians for the past several years. They are just as professional as MD's and many times, they take the time to really listen to the several symptoms. Some of us have varied symptoms, that may or may not be from a simple cause, and they take the time to also explain what could be going on, and their proposed course of treatment. I have always felt that they try to make us, the patient, feel that we are a part of the decisions for treatment. I really appreciate being treated with such respect, and feel that I am a person with each of the doctors, who matters, and who wants to be healthy. I feel that they are able to see the patient as a whole being, and that different ailments can contribute to other medical problems, because one may trigger another. We have had experiences with other Medical Doctors, who have told us at the beginning of treatment what the course of testing would be to diagnose a problem. That was agreed on. Then after only three of four promised tests, the fourth was negated because "it is too expensive, and insurance won't cover it", and because the other three turned up nothing. These other three were required as preliminary to the fourth, and only the fourth would have shown what was really going on. Then that doctor went on to suggest that the pain involved was "idiopathic", and the cause was most likely stress. After that experience, the Naturopathic Physician was able to diagnose the problem, and start a treatment. There are a lot of good MD's who care, but I feel that they are becoming too regimented to see all patients as textbook bodies, and any (which most of us are) who don't fit the textbook explanation just need to figure it out for themselves. That's not very helpful. Most of the ND's I've worked with are willing to keep trying, as long as the patient desires, to find the right answer. All of these things are why I see a Naturopath, and I feel confident that they are competent doctors. One of my sons visited the clinic at the Naturopathic College in Portland, for a while, because of a difficult diagnosis, and I could see how thorough they taught, and oversaw the training of the new doctors.

I am concerned that they are not paid by the same scale, and I am aware that insurance companies tend to disallow a lot of their services. It is an inconvenience, not to mention a financial hardship to our family, because it seems that is the only place we get the care we need, but most of the cost comes out of pocket. It is so important to me to see to it that my children, who have some very real health challenges, get adequate care, and so I am willing to go without other things, in order to get them medical care through a Naturopath. I hope you can understand that these doctors are trained as well as any MD, and the medicines they prescribe are usually in their pure forms, without additives. Being Celiacs, my two youngest sons have to be extremely careful about extra ingredients, and many MD's don't seem to understand this malady.

Thank you, for your consideration, and the time to read this. I know that you may be overwhelmed with letters like mine. But it's important, and I truly don't know how we'd get along if we didn't have these dedicated medical personnel to go to.

Sincerely,
Judi Johnson

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Louise Chambers and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown level of care for my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. Since a traumatic car accident eight years ago, I have lived with nearly constant neck and back pain, as well as severe and often incapacitating headaches. The wonderful ND I work with was the first person out of nearly 20 practitioners that I have worked with in a variety of specialties for comprehensive treatment that suggested dietary changes which have made a huge difference for the better. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not helped me move forward with this and other health conditions as well as feel as if I matter and am not just a healthcare system statistic. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in our state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. I am so grateful for the wonderful health benefits I have through my employer, because I never used to have the option of working with an ND.

My ND is simply amazing and provides me with incredible care. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Louise Chambers

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Linda Resca and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Linda Resca

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Jean Feller and I have been a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) for 30 years and am your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me, a 73-year old woman, to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. My naturopath is always my first choice when seeking treatment for a health problem.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Jean Feller

Dear Representative,

My naturopathic physician has helped me stay healthy for over a decade, beginning when she helped me manage side effects from cancer treatments. It is unfair and ignorant for naturopaths to be paid 30-70% less than other care providers for the *same services*, despite their having studied the same basic science and medicine courses in curricula of the same time duration as other physicians.

Please pass this legislation so my doctor, and many other naturopathic physicians will be paid what they are worth rather than being cheated by an unfair system of reimbursement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Newmark

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Margaret Gervais Hinshaw and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Gervais Hinshaw

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Miracle Tumi Swigart and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Miracle Tumi Swigart

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Joyce Keliheleua and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Joyce Keliheleua

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Toni Larson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon. I strongly support HB 2673 in that it makes ND services recognized and reimbursed at a comparable rate to that of other medical providers.

I am fortunate to have very good health insurance, however, due to the "out-of-network" status, my choice in a NP as my primary physician is an expensive out-of-pocket choice. This would be a barrier to care, or naturopathy, as a choice for many individuals alone. It should not be.

I have chosen a highly trained, professional ND which has served as my primary for five years now. I receive very responsive and high quality care from someone that is up-to-date on the latest treatments. Most importantly, my ND is responsive. ND services have been successful for me in areas that conventional PCPs have not. I place a high value on real-life problem solving and choice.

The insurance for which my employer and myself contribute to is expensive. ND services need to be made a full option for everyone by equalizing the reimbursement rates - making it a real choice as a health provider for everyone. Any limitations on the number of visits should also be removed.

Finally, I believe that within one of the last three special sessions in 2020, legislation was put forward to expand the capacity in which a Nurse Practitioner, Physician's Assistant as well as a Certified Nursing Assistant could provide services recognized within the medical system. Why would the ND be any different?

The services provided by my ND meet and surpass those offered by other medical professions I have seen. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers?

I am asking that HB 2673 be scheduled for consideration and request your support on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Toni Larson

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Hannah Paysinger and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

In my 30 years of living so far I have never met with a doctor who took the time to listen to my issues until I met with Dr. Oberoi, a naturopath who was able for the first time to recognize how my emotional and physically traumatic experiences had been negatively impacting my health and digestive track. By taking the time to listen and understand, she was able to prescribe me supplements that helped me heal. This was a unique experience compared to the attempts I'd made with our generic medical system which has always ignored my problems. Naturopathic medicine is so important and we need to start acknowledging that.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Hannah Paysinger

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Jessica Plante and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better. My ND helped me relieve chronic pain in my upper back that I had previously been prescribed pain medications and muscle relaxers to treat. I am very happy that my ND was able to treat the root cause of the problem and I no longer feel the want or need to take pain meds or muscle relaxers.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Jessica Plante, PE

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Brenda Hicks Nesbitt, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the delivery of quality healthcare in the state of Oregon.

My ND was the first medical practitioner ever to suggest a change of diet which has been instrumental in bringing down my cholesterol numbers to well below the normal range. She was also the first person to help me discover the genetic trait that explained my vulnerability to Alzheimer's that members of my family have suffered so terribly from. It was knowing this specific allele, the APOE3/4 – that there was an actual genetic marker – that motivated me to change my diet and other aspects of my lifestyle. Similarly this doctor pointed to grain as implicative for my pre-diabetic status. In the case of the cholesterol issues, she was able to pinpoint an issue with my LDL and how it could be pulled to a safer range.

None of the conventional practitioners in my long life – I am 77 – had ever addressed these issues effectively. None had ever taken it seriously aside from recommending fish oil. (Not bad advice, simply not complete.) I did not want to take statins, but with a family history of heart disease and Alzheimer's, I needed more help and got it, thanks to my Naturopathic Physician.

I can now hope to look forward to a productive life, and most importantly spare my children the burden of living with a parent with Alzheimer's or losing one to heart disease, as I did.

I believe in the importance of patient choice; above are the reasons I see an ND specifically.

Now, I have only to ask WHY are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to other doctors I see?

I am asking that you vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Brenda Hicks Nesbitt

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Carol Lawry and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I struggled many years with nerve pain in my hands and arms. Carpal tunnel release surgery helped a little, but I was still limited in how I could use my hands and arms. Another doctor diagnosed fibromyalgia as I also had pain in my neck, shoulders, back and hips.

Finally I got real help from my naturopathic doctor. The lab work she ordered got to the root of my physical problems and by following her recommendations I made progress at living more pain free and happier. She did not just put me on antidepressants or pain meds as other doctors had done in the past. She found ways to help my body get healthy.

This naturopathic doctor has helped myself, my spouse and my children.

It is frustrating that health insurance does not cover this treatment fairly. Since going to my naturopathic doctor, I have been healthy and rarely sick. It would save insurance companies money if patients could receive treatment from naturopathic doctors as their primary care doctor.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Carol Lawry

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Olivia Dias and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the State of Oregon.

The ND I work with provides excellent care and has been a better physician than any MD I have ever been to. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Olivia Dias

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Kornel Simons and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) . I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Kornel Simons

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Coleen Reedy and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Coleen Reedy

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Joseph Cacioppo and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people, like me, to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs; whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Joseph Cacioppo

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Marissa Emery and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My ND has been helping me to manage my physical and mental health over the past nine years through diet, lifestyle habits, supplements, and medications as needed. She and other NDs I have worked with have been some of the best listeners I've ever come across in the health field; they listen to the whole story and help me understand my experiences and create solutions that are balanced, scientifically based, and effective. I have so much gratitude for my ND, who has supported me through the ups and downs of managing chronic illness over the years.

I recognize that I'm one of the lucky few who gets to choose this option for my health care, as most health insurances don't cover this kind of holistic, individual-focused care, and if they do, it is at a tiny portion of what is paid to other medical professionals.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. It is vital for everyone to have the ability to choose the best health care for them.

Sincerely,
Marissa Emery

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Heather Knight and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I choose to work with a naturopathic doctor because I want to know how my body works as a whole system, and not in isolated parts. This approach has helped me heal from chronic hip pain at a very young age to full activity with my family.

I have appreciated working with a variety of healthcare professionals with varying skill sets because they help me learn and take responsibility for my own health and that of my family. I want to learn about the variety of approaches

to health and natural options for treating illness and improving overall health. This empowers me as a member of the community.

Please allow this freedom of choice in health care to continue and improve by supporting equal pay for Naturopathic doctors and recognizing the value of the services they provide.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Heather Knight

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees:

I've been a patient of naturopathic physicians for over 35 years, and would like to share my experiences of working with NDs to illustrate how important I feel this profession to be in the State of Oregon.

For those of us with autoimmune issues, naturopathy is much more tuned in to the unusual and sometimes bizarre symptoms that we may present with. I suppose it was unfair of me to be disappointed with a PC's generic diagnosis of "contact dermatitis," as many of these symptoms are just beyond the expertise of conventional allopathic medical training. In my experience, I've found naturopaths to be way more skilled and impressive in their ability to read and coordinate blood test results, enabling them to diagnose underlying issues in a much more nuanced way, and often long before some issues may even show up visually as a problem. Naturopaths always give me more time than a standard 11-minute insurance visit, since I private pay. They unfortunately aren't valued by many insurance companies – and if they are, there are ridiculously low annual caps on their "benefit."

Naturopathic physicians identify and treat health issues through nutrition, vitamins/herbs/supplements, and numerous other alternative modalities which are certainly less toxic to the body than poisonous pharmaceutical drugs (with their pages of contraindications), and NDs assist the body to heal constitutionally. Their expertise is *complementary*, not competitive, since their approach is totally different than that of allopathic physicians. We need them both, and they should be valued and recompensed similarly.

I will *always* choose to try to resolve a health issue alternatively, and only avail myself of surgery or pharmaceutical drugs when I have no other option – and I'm grateful to have those options too, when they're needed. But it is certainly less expensive in the long run to address a health issue from a preventive nutritional approach, and it fosters overall health by addressing underlying causes instead of simply masking symptoms.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? Or not covered at all by many insurance companies? Or covered for only \$500 max per year? It's ludicrous – how well would any of us do if we had a \$500 max benefit with our regular doctors?

Please vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura M. Ohanian

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jil Freeman and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My naturopathic physician has been the first doctor I feel totally comfortable with, which has increased my willingness to attend to my health and attend my basic care visits. She has helped improve my health and quality of life and has reduced my healthcare costs by keeping me on track with routine healthcare.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jil Freeman

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Johanka Iacolucci and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

The holistic approach to my care has only been experienced at a naturopathic clinic. Naturopaths tend to look at the whole person to facilitate diagnosis and treatment. As a healthcare professional myself, I believe that we do not spend enough effort or time identifying preventative ways to health and healing. I have yet to meet my out of pocket maximum or deductible because I have been provided with the tools to maintain a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally. If one truly thinks about it, all modern day medicine can be traced back to nature and old naturopathic or homeopathic interventions. Why should that be any different in the modern day age? People should have a choice in how to approach their care i.e. who provides it. I've appreciated my doctor's eastern based medicine approach with reliance on western medicine as needed, but I've avoided a ton of possible side effects by not always relying on western approaches and use of pharmaceuticals. Only naturopaths have this experience to provide.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Johanka Iacolucci

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Maureen O'Hagan and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Naturopathic Doctors receive medical training, just like MDs, but the way they practice medicine is so much more thorough than MDs, in my own experience. They take time to listen to you—much more than the 8 minutes an average MD spends per patient—and to really understand the nature of your medical issue. They also take into consideration your lifestyle, including your diet, exercise, stressors, etc., when writing their naturopathic orders. I know that in the past, when visiting an MD, I've felt cut off in my explanations, as they rushed out the door to another patient.

The first time I saw an ND was about 10 years ago, after I received unsatisfactory service from an MD. I had a medical issue and the MD was unable to diagnose it. Despite the lack of diagnosis, he handed me a prescription for two different medications, telling me one or the other would "treat my problem." I filled the prescriptions and read the patient inserts; both had serious side effects. I didn't take them and instead saw a Naturopath, who resolved my problem without any side effects. I've been a loyal patient ever since.

For the last few years, I've felt my choice has been limited. I'm required, under my Providence health plan, to choose an MD from a specified list as my primary or "medical home" doctor. I'd much prefer to choose my ND, but that's not allowed. There are also not enough NDs in the state, thanks to the imbalanced way naturopathic medicine is covered. It makes absolutely no sense, and I urge you to change that.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Maureen O'Hagan

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Dodie and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have had a chronic health condition that has gone undiagnosed for years. I recently started working with a naturopath and she has been able to determine the root causes of my illness and create a treatment plan that has drastically improved my health. Holistic medicine is needed for increasingly complex health conditions, and naturopathic physicians are experts in holistic treatment.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?
I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dodie

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Amy Evans, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have worked with multiple naturopaths in the last 13 years, and have always valued their expanded perspective and ability to draw on a broader knowledge base in helping me manage and improve my health.

Most recently, I battled hypoglycemia symptoms, weight gain, fatigue, and related issues for several years. I followed the advice of my Kaiser physicians, but the symptoms continued to worsen, getting to the point where they were interfering with my job. Finally, I sought a new Naturopath (my previous one had left my insurance provider) and they approached the causes and solutions much differently than my Kaiser doctors. In reviewing my blood work from a functional perspective, and taking into account more of my health history, they were able to guide me through a critical cleansing process that helped me return to vibrant health. In fact, I was able to reduce my medications by half, something that shocked my traditional doctors!

I will forever be grateful to my Naturopath for helping me reclaim my health and create a better path to wellness. In addition to providing a broader perspective in supporting patients, naturopaths spend much more time with patients than other doctors, allowing for better communication and long-term outcomes.

Considering they maintain similar credentials, and have an extensive education, why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to other providers who provide similar services? They deserve the same level of support as PAs, NPs and MDs/DOs are paid.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Amy D. Evans

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Paulina Jaeger-Rosete and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I have been seeing an ND for the past 9 years and through them, I have received the best care I have in my life. I spent my childhood and teenage years getting occasional help from other doctors, but it is specifically my naturopathic physicians in my twenties and thirties who have made such a dramatic impact on my overall health.

In my experience with my ND, I have received holistic healthcare that has helped me get through illnesses--whether physical, mental, or interconnected. Furthermore, I have felt extremely safe around them and this safety has allowed me to properly communicate what is going on with me because I know I will be heard and given space to communicate. My NDs over the years have provided this space and specifically helped me achieve results in order to better my physical, mental, and emotional health. I am endlessly impressed by the breadth of knowledge of my NDs and other naturopathic practitioners have had over the years--their dedication to learning and curiosity, their skills at

research, their existing knowledge base, and their consistent practice of listening to me as a patient for my own insight and experience.

I at this point only see NDs, acupuncturists, and other naturopathic healthcare providers because of the above, unless I need a specialist.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. They are hugely valuable and work SO hard. Thank you!

Warm regards,
Paulina Jaeger-Rosete

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Kathryn Gourley and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician in Portland, Oregon and I do not exaggerate by saying that this care has saved my life. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon and ask you to support HB 2673.

I struggled for many years with chronic illness related to my hormones and was repeatedly dismissed by other physicians. When I started seeing a naturopath in Oregon I recovered towards health almost immediately. The real reason I am writing in support of this bill, however, is because the value of my relationship to my care provider is indescribable. It has impacted my mental and emotional health as much as it has improved my physical well being.

Naturopathic Doctors are paid between 30-70% of what PAs, NPs and MDs/DOs are paid for the same exact work. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? You have the power to correct this disparity.

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Gourly

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jessica and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I also work in healthcare in various settings as an occupational therapist, so I have daily professional interactions with physicians of all backgrounds and specialties. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

In both my professional and personal experience, NDs are more holistic and treat the underlying issue, illness, or disease process beginning with the initial assessment, where more traditional/western medicine physicians tend to focus on symptom management. I am a generally well person, but the health issues I've battled in my life have always been attributed to my weight (and, not that it really matters, but I am not morbidly obese according to BMI) by MDs both here and on the east coast, leaving me not only essentially untreated, but shamed and hesitant to seek care even when I needed it. It wasn't until I gave an ND an opportunity to treat me that my health issues actually improved and I felt heard. For me, as an educated healthcare professional, this is invaluable. It is shocking to me that NDs are still reimbursed at a lower rate (if they're reimbursed at all) by insurance companies in 2021, when their expertise and approach surely prevents countless expensive hospitalizations each year, ultimately saving the healthcare system money and resources.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jessica Marsh

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Kent Siebold and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Kent Siebold

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Donna Kottek and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

After not getting the answers I was seeking from other medical providers for some issues I was having with women issues and joint issues,, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my Naturopathic Physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Donna Kottek

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Brian Jacobson and I am a patient of Sara Hopkins, a Naturopathic Physician in Portland, OR. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Not only has Sara created an environment where I feel completely heard when I discuss my medical ailments, but she know how to ask the right questions that encourage more detailed descriptions than I could provide on my own.

She has also been excellent at recommending natural remedies over prescription drugs, surgery, or other invasive practices. I feel confident that the naturopathic approach to my health is one of the leading reasons I'm able to continue living the active lifestyle I do enjoy.

I also feel it is very important that I am able to chose the doctor who provides me with the best total care. And they should all be paid equally, regardless of who an individual feels confident is providing them the care they require.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Brian Jacobson

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Brook Higbee and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician in Portland. I am concerned to hear that NDs in Oregon are not paid a fair wage.

My Naturopathic Physician is my primary doctor. She is the one I go to for my yearly exam. She is the one that has helped me heal my back pain with acupuncture. She is the one I go to for any and all health concerns. She has listened to me and taken the time to learn my medical history. No doctor in the past had ever been as thorough.

When I began seeing my ND over two years ago, I didn't know she would be the one to help heal my back. All other doctors threw muscle relaxers at me, and told me to lose weight. My ND started acupuncture and recommended natural anti-inflammatories. After a month of treatment, I felt better than I had in years. Her knowledge and willingness to think outside of the box helped me tremendously.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? They deserve equal pay for their work.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Brook Higbee

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Ashley and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have been working with a naturopath for several years now and the care I receive from her has been irreplaceable. It has far acceded the care I have received from a primary care MD in the past. Through naturopathic care, I have found relief from chronic pain and ongoing support for my health as a whole. It is invaluable to receive care that treats the whole person, and naturopathic physicians absolutely deserve to be compensated at the same rate as other health care professionals.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? It is invaluable to receive care that treats the whole person, and naturopathic physicians absolutely deserve to be compensated at the same rate as other health care professionals.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Ashley Drummond

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Drusilla van Hengel and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon. The disciplined yet holistic care I receive, in due time and without substantial delay has been a godsend. Especially in the pandemic, when more modern practitioners have had less availability and compassion.

I firmly believe that the patient choice in healthcare leads to a positive outcome for all and an eventual reduction in burden on the insurance and health care costs.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Drusilla van Hengel, PhD

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Melissa Rehder, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Melissa Rehder

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees-Oregon Legislature,

As a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent, I ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have shown the care in my health and welfare like my ND. My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs and provides competent care that has helped me move forward with my health conditions, and renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Oregon NDs need to be fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in our great state.

Please vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Kate Green

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Liza Duilio Roll and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with a ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and the naturopathic doctors have shown me the best care of them all. They have taken the time with me to get to the bottom of my conditions. I have historically been sensitive to regular medicines, such as getting allergies or having side effects, so holistic medicine works best for my body type. I also appreciate how the medicines are often sourced from nature, thus being better on our environment and health overall. My naturopathic doctors have been like teachers to me too, taking the time to help me learn the hows and whys of taking care of my body in natural ways.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare. My health insurance does not always cover the care I am needing, if it happens to be through naturopathic methods, and my care providers are not reimbursed fully as they should. This makes it more difficult for NDs to provide services and difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also will refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Liza Duilio Roll

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Rose Palazzo and I am a patient of Dr. Ilana Gurevich Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Rose

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emily Wright and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

The ND I've worked with as my primary care physician for 7 year is who I trust fully with all of my health concerns, from gyno to mental health to cardiology, she has partnered with specialists when necessary and been a key piece of the process in understanding and developing an integrative approach to my health.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?
I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Emily

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Erin Cook and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673. I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Erin Cook

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nicole Jacobson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I was having issues with sleeping as a grad student and went to an MD who took about 3 minutes of time and prescribed me Ambien. He repeatedly renewed my Ambien prescriptions and increased my dosage over the next year with 1-3 minute office visits. When I tried to quit the medication I had difficulty stopping and he was not able to give me any recommendations, just asking in our 3 minute visit if I wanted it renewed again.

I tried several MDs after that trying to find someone who could help me stop taking Ambien but it seemed no one had time to discuss this with me and no one had any new ideas of how I could more easily quit.

I was helped immensely during my very first visit with my Naturopathic Physician who took the time to talk to me, hear my issues and difficulties and offered me multiple novel ideas for how to help me gradually and safely wean off of Ambien.

She has helped me with numerous other medical issues throughout the years and I've found a lot of success with approaches and treatments that I've never heard from MDs in the past.

It's so difficult to find a medical provider you know and trust and my Naturopathic Physician has become that person for me. Her care has improved my overall health immensely.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?
I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Nicole Jacobson

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jordan Nuccio and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I see my naturopath exclusively for primary care and preventative medicine. She has helped me to manage a chronic condition for the past two years. Prior to finding my naturopath I spent many frustrating years working with many different primary care MDs and specialists and, despite many advanced diagnostics and involved and expensive interventions, made little progress in addressing the condition. Within a series of three visits my ND has both identified the underlying issue and helped me formulate a treatment plan that has been curative. Her approach was balanced and compassionate and also extremely skillful. We have added a rider to our insurance to ensure that we are able to seek naturopathic care and we count on it for our health and well being. It is alarming to see that my naturopath is not reimbursed at the same rate and other physicians. Her training and scope of care is significantly more than most other medical professionals that I have seen. It is both illogical and unfair that she is not paid equally.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jordan Nuccio

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Susan Tipton and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs; several years ago I was diagnosed with cancer, my ND, Dr Serron Wilkie guided my care in concert with my OHSU Oncologist, suggesting supplements and treatments to ease my process through treatment. Dr. W encouraged specific dietary changes and supplements to support my immune system among other directives. Symptoms I had lived with for years, acid reflux, heartburn, headaches, among other things disappeared. It has been eleven years since my treatments eliminated the tumor. I have had excellent health since then. I check in with my ND on a three-month basis; I walk 4-5 miles several times a week; I do yoga, I enjoy an active pain-free life at 76 years of age and I credit naturopathy for this change. I have become more proactive in my

own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Susan Tipton

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jen Gens and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

It was recently shown to me that ND's don't receive equal pay as MDs or even PA's, even though often times they have more training!

I was recently diagnosed with SIBO (small intestinal bacterial overgrowth) which my ND was able to treat with herbs. This has significantly improved my health!

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jen Gens

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Charlotte Layne and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Thanks,
Charlotte Layne

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Hannah Kim and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon. Naturopathic Physicians have been integral in my journey of health and wellness and they deserve to be compensated fairly. Many of my experiences

with MDs have been extremely negative, and it wasn't until I discovered Naturopathic Physicians that I was able to actually start healing.

For example, my gynecologist kept me on a birth control that was causing intense anxiety among other negative symptoms and she disregarded what I was saying and kept me on it for 6 months. When I finally came off the birth control it took many more months for my body to regulate my hormones again. It was a terrible experience and a year of discomfort I could have easily avoided had I been with a naturopath instead or someone else who understood holistic health and who also believed their patients.

Additionally, I had a period where I was having recurring UTIs and the MDs I were seeing gave me several courses of antibiotics back to back, which would temporarily put a band aid on the problem without addressing the root cause. Wiping out the gut flora with antibiotics is not the best idea for recurring UTIs especially because UTIs are caused by gut health, which I learned after doing my own research. The antibiotics also made me sick in other ways and again subjected me to months of feeling terrible. My naturopaths believe me when I tell them what I'm experiencing in my own body and they are in it for the long term rather than just prescribing a pill and sending me on my way.

Healthcare is a human right but not just harried doctors prescribing antibiotics willy nilly in the 15 minutes they have to see you. We all have the right to have health practitioners who actually care about eradicating the root of our problems and who are able to work with us over a long period of time with compassion and insight.

As members of the Healthcare Committees you have the power to actually do something about this by ensuring that Naturopath practitioners are compensated fairly for their labor. This will ensure that they can continue practicing and helping people.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Best,
Hannah Kim

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am a long-time user of different naturopathic physicians for chronic illness. I have gained immense support from my providers over the last 20 years. They have allowed me to function in high-paying and high-pressure jobs in Oregon, which increases income taxes for the state. If you care about the residents, tax-payers, and voters in Oregon then you need to vote yes to the pay parity bill.

My grandparents talk of fond memories of their primary care doctor who would spend hours with them and whom they were patients of for decades. I've never found any mainstream doctor who offers that service, only naturopathic physicians. They still value taking time to get to know and build a relationship that will help with a patient's overall care. I would never have received the amount of care that led to recovery, from a "traditional, western" doctor.

I was shocked to hear that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen, particularly when they provide a much higher level of care. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Brandy Steffen

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rachael and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I am from Oklahoma and they have very few naturopathic physicians. While living there, I felt the healthcare providers never fully understood me and the vision I had for my health. I felt misunderstood when I would say I didn't want a prescription or that their recommended treatment wasn't working for me. When I first moved to Oregon, I was shocked at the vast amount of naturopathic physicians available and I couldn't wait to see one. Over the last two years, I have been seeing a naturopathic physician regularly for primary and gynecological care, and it has been an empowering and positive experience in every way. Naturopathic physicians address the root of your health issues and treat the whole self in a natural and holistic manner. My values align with theirs and that is the best feeling when caring for something so important as your body and mind. They truly listen to you and explore options taking into account your comfort level and their own expertise. I have never felt so heard, understood and taken care of while in a healthcare setting. I love my naturopath health team, I look forward to our appointments--that is not normal! I have honestly never felt healthier. I do not see other types of doctors and I honestly do not see any reason to at this time. They provide everything I need and so much more! Naturopathic physicians are a true gem and we are so lucky to have so many in this state. In my personal opinion, they are superior to most other types of physicians because they really care about patients and have no ulterior motives to adhere by. They are solely there to help.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? That doesn't seem right.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. They deserve it and so much more for what they do for all folks--they are truly special. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my request.

Sincerely,
Rachael Cervenka

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Victor Barreda Pazos and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have been working with ND as my primary care physician for over 3 years. I would never go back to an MD to take care of my health. My ND is always looking at the whole picture to see what is the root of the problem rather than silence the symptom/cover with a bandaid a bigger problem. Naturopathic care is all about seeing the person as a whole and treating with natural remedies, which often come to lifestyle and/or dietary changes. While this might not be profitable to big pharma corporations addresses wellbeing in a more efficient way.

It is unbelievable that naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen, and I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Victor Barreda Pazos

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Tera Reed and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Tera Reed

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I have long seen Naturopathic Physicians as an important part of my wellbeing. I would like to share my experience working with an ND and the need for this profession to be supported and grown in the state of Oregon.

At several points in my life when I have experienced major health issues, I have found that seeing a ND was what helped me become well again. In several cases, my ND succeeded where my traditional doctor failed. In my opinion, this is because they treat the whole person and offer more personalized, continued support than many western medical doctors are willing or able to do.

Some of the key points in my life where naturopathic medicine has supported me when western medicine has failed include:

- During pregnancy and post-partum
- During periods of depression and anxiety
- During chronic illness in my children

In several cases, I have been forced to pay out of pocket or a large co-pay to receive the services of a naturopathic doctor rather than a medical physician, due to insurance seemingly placing less value on the importance or efficacy of these services. This is intensely frustrating, when I have found the complete opposite to be true.

I believe that our society (including insurance providers and the Oregon Legislature) should recognize the value, efficacy, importance and expertise of naturopathic medicine and the specialty of naturopathic physicians. To this end, naturopathic physicians should be paid comparatively to their western medicine counterparts and this requirement should be codified.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jamie Harvie

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Miriam Hanes and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician in Portland, Oregon. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have some complicated health issues and began working with a naturopath out of desperation when I wasn't having progress with other doctors. I ended up getting holistic treatment that changed my entire perspective on what healthcare could be. They don't always start with a pharmaceutical prescription, they look at lifestyle, holistic, and alternative approaches to health care.

My experience with naturopaths has changed my perspective of what "health care" means: I heal better when I feel cared for and am more likely to do the work when I feel like I'm on a team. They spend the time with me to make me feel like I was being heard and seen. I feel more trust for my naturopaths than I have for any PCP I've had, and most specialists, because they took the time to build that relationship. I had gone back to an MD a few years ago, because my ND had a baby and I figured I'd try it out. It didn't feel good, it was back to the sterile environment of late appointments, short appointments, spinning wheels, and feeling like I'm not being listened to, so I went back to my ND when she came back from baby-leave.

My naturopath is currently my PCP. She is able to refer me to specialists as needed, can prescribe most of my prescriptions and I feel confident that she either has the knowledge or is willing to do the research when needed. From what I've seen they seem to have a well-connected community and have built great relationships with the hospitals and specialists.

I hate having to question whether my treatment is going to be covered, whether my naturopath can afford to take my insurance coverage. It really bothers me that they're paid so much less for doing the same work and I think they should be paid fair compensation for the work their doing and their contribution to the community that is on par with other physicians. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Miriam Hanes

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Winn and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon. I have been seeing a ND for 4 years and have had the best care I have ever had in my 41 years of life. She has helped me manage my chronic issues and improve my lifestyle. She has been a literal life saver for me!

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Winn Holly

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jennifer Franklin and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have been seeing a Naturopathic Physician for several years to assist with recurring health issues and symptoms. During this time I have received dedicated and personalized care of my symptoms that my OHSU primary care doctor was not interested in investigating or would have provided surgery as a solution. Through the care of my primary naturopath and their network of specialty providers I have been able to avoid surgery options. We have also been able to further investigate the cause of my symptoms, as opposed to just treating the symptoms with medication.

My husband also sees a naturopathic physician and has been able to avoid harmful prescriptions through the use of diet and supplements.

We are both grateful for the level of support from our ND providers, which offer natural and holistic care and treatment.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?
I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Franklin

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Heather Knight and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I choose to work with a naturopathic doctor because I want to know how my body works as a whole system, and not in isolated parts. This approach has helped me heal from chronic hip pain at a very young age to full activity with my family.

I have appreciated working with a variety of healthcare professionals with varying skill sets because they help me learn and take responsibility for my own health and that of my family. I want to learn about the variety of approaches to health and natural options for treating illness and improving overall health. This empowers me as a member of the community.

Please allow this freedom of choice in health care to continue and improve by supporting equal pay for Naturopathic doctors and recognizing the value of the services they provide.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Heather Knight

My name is Crystal Jimenez and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon. I have had nothing less than a positive experiences working with my Naturopathic Doctor.

- I appreciate that she takes the time to really dig deep and tries to find what is my body doing, by looking into my food, sleep and not just want to give me medication to treat my problem.
- I value my naturopathic care, I have made steps into the right direction. I feel much better now the. I have ever felt before and I am on less medication
- It's of the most night importance to me that we as patient have a choice in healthcare
- I see my Naturopathic Doctor to help with my lupus, and gut health.
- My naturopathic treatment has been the only thing that has given me a full life back, I've learned that my body was telling me something was wrong, I learned to fix this with what I put in and not with medication. I have seen many specialist and my naturopathic doctor has been the only one who has found a way to support my health when other options had been unsuccessful

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Crystal Jimenez

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Sarah and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have been working with an ND for the last three years, and my health has been drastically improved due to her care. More than any other physician I have been under the care of, my ND has taken the time to truly understand my health concerns and get to the underlying causes so we can solve the issues instead of putting a temporary band-aid on something or just sending me to another doctor. NDs support patients so well (even better than any of the PAs, NPs, and NDs I've ever seen) and should be treated fairly because of this. I know my life would not be the same without my ND.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Sarah Moreau

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Emilie Jensen and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I've sought out NDs as an adult because of their holistic approach to medicine: making the effort to understand the cause of illness and disease, not just treating the symptoms. My NDs listen to me and my unique experiences more closely than other physicians, and therefore have always provided me with superior care.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking please, that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emilie Jensen

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Erin Trine and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance and value of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I had a condition that my traditional physicians could not diagnose for years. My health concerns were repeatedly dismissed and ignored. When I moved to a ND she was able to ascertain the root cause of so many issues that had cost me years of unhelpful treatment (some that even made it worse), so much money, and had a profound impact on my quality of life. She was able to get me the treatment I needed for actual healing and my life has since turned around tremendously. The quality of care I receive from my ND is leagues above that I received from traditional physicians.

My direct experiences over the past seven years have led me to greater health and ability to contribute to society. In light of this I am shocked that naturopathic physicians are paid so little compared to the other providers. This is not in the best interest of patient and societal health. I support ND physicians receiving the same level of compensation as other physicians.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Erin Trine, MA

Hello,

I'm writing today in support of HB 2673 to get Naturopathic Physicians fair payment from insurance companies.

Western medicine is helpful in it's own way, but my life was literally saved by my naturopathic providers. I had been ill for years yet no MD could narrow it down and just wanted to treat symptoms. It wasn't until I sought out an ND in desperation for some answers as a last resort, that I finally had some relief. What they found and helped me treat turned my life around completely, and brought me back to true health.

We had to pay out of pocket for much of my treatment, and even when some was covered by insurance it was still expensive. It took quite a toll on our finances. But it was worth it for me to get back to wellness when I knew it was the only path that would help. Many people don't have the funds available to see NDs when western medicine isn't helping them like it should. HB 2673 would allow more patients like myself to get the help they need, and for the NDs to receive the pay from insurance they deserve.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Best Regards,
Karen Jensen

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I'm Kira Nguyen-Manahan from Keizer, Oregon and am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I am asking that you vote 'Yes' on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill as I believe it completely unfair that naturopathic physicians are paid so little in comparison to other providers.

My ND provides me with holistic healthcare that they curate for me based on many aspects of my life, they keep up with my mental health as well as my physical health and provide solutions and suggestions based on that. I've never felt more seen and cared for as a patient. Whenever I have medical issues, my ND is ready with a large swath of knowledge and options ranging from more natural remedies to pharmaceutical ones. I can't think of any reason why my doctor should be making less than any other provider just because they are a Naturopathic Physician.

Sincerely,
Kira Nguyen-Manahan

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Chris Simons and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors. We are in the middle of a healthcare epidemic (not just from COVID) and ensuring medical professionals who provide the same level of service are compensated equitably is pivotal towards a healthier community.

Sincerely yours,
Chris Simons

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Morgan Stone and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have spent decades of my life asking for help from physicians who took one look at me and thought the outside reflected what was happening on the inside. I had doctors who repeatedly told me my symptoms could be solved by losing weight, by changing my diet, by making lifestyle changes. Doctors who ignored my pain symptoms and sent me on my way with the suggestion that I exercise more.

Since I've started seeing a Naturopathic Physician, I no longer feel like I'm pleading with my doctors to help me. I now have a partner I work alongside, who hears me out and digs deeper to discover the underlying cause of my symptoms — she doesn't guess and make assumptions based on my appearance. In working with her, I've gotten on the proper dosage for my hypothyroidism, I've gotten a handle on my brain chemistry, and we even discovered I have a high likelihood of a particular very rare blood disorder.

When she doesn't have an answer, she doesn't give her best guess just to get a diagnosis on paper; she sends me to a specialist to confirm suspicions/concerns. She doesn't respond to everything with supplements and needles; if I need medication, she prescribes me medication. I have never felt safer and more valued with a doctor than I do with my naturopath. The work she does has done wonders in restoring my faith in the medical world. What she does is medicine. And it is not only physical but emotional medicine.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? Mine has gained a greater respect from me than almost any medical professional I've seen in my nearly 40 years.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Morgan Stone

Dear Senate & Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Charlotte Smith and I am a patient of Dr. Tyler Keliheleua N.D. AND your constituent. I am asking you to support HB 2673. I strongly believe in this Bill and here are my reasons why I think this bill should be passed. For 10 years + I suffered from acid reflux so much so that I had to sleep almost sitting up. I was given medication to reduce the acid reflux by MDs. After going to Dr. Keliheleua, he explained the need to get my digestive system working better and therefore not having the food and acid back up into my esophagus. I no longer have this problem thanks to the knowledge of Dr. Keliheleua. This knowledge from a Naturopathic doctor was a different way of looking at the problem just like when you go to a specialist. I believe it is knowledge that cannot be looked down upon but should be valued.

With HB 2673 insurance companies will be stopped from discriminating against Naturopathic Doctors. Why is the legislature allowing insurance companies to DISCRIMINATE against this section of the medical field of expertise. Naturopathic doctors have doctorate degrees. They do the same things that MDs do like annual exams, prescribe medications, refer patients to specialist. They are licensed and regulated by the State. Naturopathic Doctors have worked hard to earn their degree and they have student loans to prove it. Insurance companies are compensating them at a far much lower rate than nurse practitioners who have far less schooling.

By passing HB2673, I will have a CHOICE. As a consumer, I will get to choose who I want as a doctor. I do not want the insurance companies dictating which doctor I should go to. They're only looking out for their profits while I'm trying to manage my health care. I feel I am being limited in my choices as to who can help me with my health issues because they won't compensate Naturopathic doctors like they do MDs.

Please pass this Bill so that Naturopathic Doctors are acknowledged as Doctors and are paid accordingly, not discriminated against by insurance companies and I get choose my doctor.

Your constituent,
Charlotte Smith

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Rowan and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

My Naturopath has consistently provided excellent care to men throughout the last 10 years. She has done more in-depth testing to determine the exact source of my various concerns, and she has recommended food and supplement solutions as well as pharmaceutical treatments. I have greatly enjoyed working with her, and she is a thorough and well-qualified physician. Why then are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? Does the state of Oregon not believe that its own rigorous licensing requirements ensure that naturopaths are qualified in this state? It seems like this just most likely just an oversight; one which you now have the chance to fix.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Rowan Everard

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nora Bauman and I have been the recipient of compassionate, high-quality care from a variety of Naturopathic Physicians in Oregon over the course of the past 12 years.

Naturopathic Physicians have changed my life. They have taken the time to get to know me, my body, my lifestyle, and my circumstances so they aren't just triaging symptoms, they're treating my whole self. I think of the care I've received as not just treatment of acute symptoms but of my body as a complex, holistic system. This has led to my taking much better care of my physical and mental self, and that has significantly impacted the kind of woman, partner, friend, parent, and professional I am.

I have benefited tremendously from the NP approach to healthcare, as have most of my friends and co-workers. It's unconscionable that NPs, doctors willing to go the extra mile with their patients on a regular basis, are paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen.

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,

Nora Bauman

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience in the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

Some years ago, I suffered repeated bouts of sinus infections several times a year. The Medical Doctor, the ENT Physician, the allergist, and the Nurse Practitioner all had little to offer in the ways of remedies, or in prevention. Finally, one Christmas after I spent several days in bed with a fever, I made an appointment with a Naturopathic. She offered me several suggestions and remedies to alleviate the symptoms and help build back my immune system. Over the course of several weeks, I got better and stronger. As months passed and new seasons came and went, she made adjustments to my routines. I was soon able to be at a maintenance level. Several years later, I am armed to defend myself whenever I feel sickness coming on.

It wasn't just my sinuses. My ND explored my whole being and wellness unlike any MD can afford to. She has given me deep and clear insight into my health issues and addressed the means for me to achieve better health. The results are priceless.

Why then are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Richard Crimi

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Nicole Grayson and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to urge you to vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill. The importance of this profession is critical to the healthcare of our state and our country.

I have had numerous health issues that after numerous expensive imaging and doctor appointments, saw a naturopath who helped to resolve my problem. I was convinced I had ovarian cancer. I had several x-rays/ultra-sounds/MRI and was told there was nothing wrong with me. Yet I was still experiencing significant abdominal pain. After seeing a naturopath, they adjusted my diet and I am pain free.

My son also sees a naturopath, and after several doctors claiming he had medical issues they couldn't help, the naturopath changed his diet and added some supplements. He is in very good health now!

The amount of money being spent on medical procedures is often unnecessary. These two industries need to support one another and work TOGETHER! But naturopaths also need to be paid like other providers.

I am urging you to vote YES on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kiesz Grayson

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Diana Mortlock and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Diana Mortlock

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees

My name is Robert Kirk and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to relate the importance of this profession in Oregon.

I was diagnosed with a rare chronic condition 8 years ago. It will be with me until I die. I went to several traditional western medicine doctors. This took me 2 years and I finally found a doctor at OHSU that is able to see me and treat me 3 times a year. I am invoiced approximately \$20,000 for the 3 visits that take less than an hour each. The care is good but there is minimal connection to the rest of my wellbeing. My doctor at OHSU was supportive of my efforts to try additional care methods to assist me in living a fulfilling and useful life. I sought out a Naturopathic Physician. I had no prior experience with naturopathic medicine.

I got a referral from a friend and was able to make an appointment in less than a week. The first 45 minutes of my appointment was a listening session. The ND was very supportive in my desire for a twofold approach to my care. She researched methods and treatments that would augment my OHSU care. She made recommendations on my general health that would assist me in recovering from my OHSU treatments. My ND was the person who could look at my entire care.

Every year I get a physical through medicare. Normally bloodwork is part of that. I get a very nice printable schedule of my cholesterol levels and blood gases. I access this through a patient portal. There may be a one or two word comment noted by one of my levels, I assume they are written by my physician. To say there is no connection to my well being would be an understatement. When I first mentioned I was getting my medicare physical my ND asked if there was going to be bloodwork done and if she could review it as well. We spent 30 minutes going over it. I learned so much. She made some diet suggestions and discussed how things change as we age. She answered all my questions and I felt my health mattered to her.

It would be easy to fill these pages with many more examples of the benefit of Naturopathic Physicians. They are an important cog in our healthcare universe. In my experience they are unique because you can actually get timely access. I recommend them to all my friends.

I am troubled with how little naturopathic providers are paid compared to other providers. Why is that? I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity Bill.

Sincerely,
Robert W Kirk

My name is Theus Weiskopf and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

- Naturopathic medicine has brought me so much healing, standard medicine could not. My mind & body were treated together and not in a separate fashion like standard medicine does. If it weren't for my naturopathic doctor's holistic view of the body, I wouldn't have the health I have today.
- Medicine that is in alignment with nature and ancient ways of healing is important!
- Being able to find a naturopathic doctor that suits my needs is important and I would want to have as many options as I would with standard medicine.
- Often these visits are not covered by health insurance and we need to change this! These doctors are very important to our healthcare system and deserve equal payouts and insurance coverage.

Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Theus Weiskopf

My name is Quinn Richards and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

- Naturopathic medicine has brought me so much healing, standard medicine could not. My mind & body were treated together and not in a separate fashion like standard medicine does. If it weren't for my naturopathic doctor's holistic view of the body, I wouldn't have the health I have today.
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Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen?

I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Quinn Richards

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Renee Renfrow and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Physician. I would like to share my experience working with an ND to show the importance of this profession in the state of Oregon.

I have chosen naturopathic health avenues for all of my adult life and suffered the financial implications of having to pay out of pocket for the privilege of working with the holistic approach. I have reached amazing results all these years and would like to continue supporting this approach. I have found my Naturopathic practitioners to be attentive and take into account me as a whole person, not just tossing pharmaceuticals at one problem and then the next one that drug causes. This is not to say I am against allopathic medicine in total, there is a place for all approaches to our health challenges.

I am writing to support my practitioners so they don't have to suffer the financial implications of being MORE educated than many doctors and yet paid less. Why are naturopathic physicians paid so little compared to the other providers I have seen? I know the disparity is deeper than just compensation for their services. Natural medicine has the Goliaths of Insurance Companies and big Pharmaceutical conglomerates to overcome as well.

However, right now I am writing for my practitioners. I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.

Sincerely,
Renee Renfrow

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Chris O'Donnell and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and few have taken the time and shown the care in my overall health and well being like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has helped me move forward with my health conditions. I believe in Innovation and honestly, the typical MD's hands seem tied by bureaucracy and longstanding reliance on medications to treat the symptoms, not the cause. I have found my ND to be more open minded about different solutions and that has made the difference.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB2673 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,
Chris O'Donnell
