

Name: Angela Greenwood

Date:2/9/21

Subject: HB 2673 Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians Pay Parity Bill

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

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

I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease more than 20 years ago when I was in my mid-twenties. I was being seen by a combination of my family doctor (MD) and a Specialist in Rheumatoid Arthritis (MD). Upon diagnosis, these professionals prescribed a regimen of potent muscle relaxers and anti-inflammatory medications. As I was leaving the office on my first day of diagnosis, one of the doctors told me to be sure and schedule my follow-up blood work. Since we hadn't discussed this blood work, I began to ask a few more questions. This is when I learned that the medications I had just been prescribed were known to cause liver and kidney failure and that the blood work would need to be repeated every six months to make sure my "system wasn't shutting down." As an otherwise healthy 25-year-old, I wasn't willing to risk this outcome, so I began my journey to find another way of approaching my health. This journey ultimately led me to a Naturopathic Physician (NP). I have worked with different NPs for the better part of my adult life and have come to rely on the wholistic, caring, impactful approach incorporated by this group of professionals. My current NP has helped me to manage my overall health and wellbeing in such a way that I am no longer daily affected by my autoimmune disease – without the use of toxic medications. Her thoughtful, whole-person, research-based approach has literally changed my life and health.

I have recently learned of the great disparity between Naturopathic Physicians and other medical providers with respect to payments received from insurance companies. This practice puts NPs at undue financial distress and has a negative impact on their

ability to serve patients. This, in turn, undermines the health care of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians. This practice is unfair, unwarranted, and irresponsible. As a voting citizen, **I am asking that you vote yes on the Naturopathic Physician Pay Parity bill.**

Sincerely,

Angela Greenwood

M.A., M.Ed., CCC-SLP