



DEBORAH L. GORDON, M.D.
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House and Senate Health Care Committees
Oregon Legislature
RE: HB 2673

11 February 2021

Esteemed Legislators:

My name is Deborah Gordon and I write as a medical doctor deeply rooted in Southern Oregon, where I have been practicing medicine since 1986. During this time I have greatly enjoyed collaborating with Naturopathic Physicians (NDs) as providers and colleagues.

I am writing to ask you please to support HB 2673.

When I first arrived in Southern Oregon, NDs were not allowed to order labs at the local hospital, so I ordered newborn labs for an ND helping women with home births. I had other MD colleagues doing the same, and we all came to know and trust different and many NDs in our area. In the decades since, my awareness of their scope of practice has expanded to acknowledge the broad array of medical understanding they can hold and the expert, patient-centered practices they offer to so many satisfied patients in Southern Oregon.

Unfortunately, at this time in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for my patients to access a unique and essential level of care which can effectively limit my choices when I seek physicians for referrals within the healthcare system.

Our communities need more healthcare services not less. Providing NDs with equal pay will give more people across the state of Oregon access to naturopathic care and expand the referral network to this care for providers like me.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gordon, MD