

Dear Senate and House Health Care Committees,

My name is Hannah Forney 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. Before going to a Naturopathic Physician I was just part of a system that gave me 15 minutes to "diagnose" my problem with some pills and move on to the next patient. I was over medicated, sick, and not well. I was prescribed antidepressants and when I tried to get off of them I got really, really sick.

Then I found Naturopathy. After taking blood samples, listening to what was going on with me, we found ways to help me by changing what I eat, exercising, and vitamin supplements. It's all because they gave me the TIME that was needed to diagnose what was going on with me. I also had a night and day experience with child-birth.

The naturopathic Drs at Canyon Medical center were absolutely amazing in taking care of me in all my prenatal appointments. I felt that I was taken care of on a holistic level, addressing every question and need to help me be the healthiest momma and have the healthiest baby. In fact I was able to have 2 unmedicated births with no intervention. (The C-section rate in this country is extremely alarming and is frankly another discussion that needs to be had and looked into.) Their knowledge was beyond any MD that I had met with previously, and I felt that I was attentively taken care of.

There is no reason that a Naturopathic Dr should be paid less than an MD. Every single person has a completely different genetic makeup, and to assume that one medical way is superior over the other is insensitive and harmful to the health of our nation. We should encourage people to seek out the best health advice for their OWN body and what they think is best.

To funnel people into a system that is singular and frankly very out of touch with individual needs is unfair. And by discriminating in how ND's are paid promotes individuals to move towards a system that might not be the best fit for their own bodies.

Naturopathy promotes healthy lifestyle and a holistic look at the WHOLE body and person. Which I'm pretty sure is what we all want.

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

Sincerely, Hannah Forney