

February 14, 2021

RE: HB2673, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors

Dear Senate and Health Care Committees,

My name is Jeanne Pace and I am a patient of Dr Edie Vickers, ND. 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.

I have worked with Dr Vickers since 1998. My husband and I were referred to her by a nurse with the American Cancer Society when my husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer and facing a radical prostatectomy. She recommended that we see Dr Vickers for 6 weeks prior to surgery to boost his body's ability to tolerate this invasive surgery (this was before robotic procedures were used). We did so, his surgery was successful and recovery excellent, and we have stayed with her for the 23 years since.

I am a generally healthy person, aged 76, who intends to age well and stay active throughout my life. To that end, Dr Vickers is my primary care provided. I see her every month for a consultation on all aspects of my health and for an acupuncture treatment to deal with whatever my aging body needs to thrive. When I have a health issue I first discuss it with her and together we plan how to proceed. She recommends any specialist I need and always directs me to top practitioners in their speciality. They are consistently excellent providers who know and respect Dr Vickers as a highly skilled medical provider. Dr Vickers guides my diet, exercise, medication and supplements, and stress reducing protocols, critical in this time of pandemic.

She deserves fair compensation for her expertise. Why is she paid so much less than my other providers when she is the one who best knows me fully - mind, body, and spirit? Patient choice is an important aspect of our medical system, and as a naturopath who is skilled in working with my body's natural powers to be healthy, Dr Vickers is critical to my ongoing health.

It is important to note that Dr Vickers is part of a non-profit clinic, The Immune Enhancement Project, that treats patients who have illness such as cancer, HIV-AIDS, MS, Stroke Recovery, at a very low cost. This is just one example of the generous work Naturopaths do for those most in need in our community. Oregon can be proud of having one of the leading training institutions for Naturopaths in the country. It is an embarrassment that we, of all states, do not fairly compensate our Naturopaths.

I urge you VOTE YES ON HB 2673 and support fair pay for Naturopaths.

Sincerely,

Jeanne F Pace

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