

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Julie Brush, ND

February 1, 2021

Re: HB2673, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Julie Brush and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND delivering quality healthcare in my community and the barriers I face in delivering this care, and ask you to please support HB2673.

I am passionate about helping people. This is why I have sacrificed so much to become a physician and practice medicine. I love connecting with people and helping them both understand their medical condition and successfully implement a plan to move their health forward.

I spent 12 years practicing primary naturopathic care in Oregon, often managing the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. I also made referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, I taught my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for their health.

Unfortunately, like other ND's, I was not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential and unique level of care. It also limited access to healthcare for my patients as well as other individuals and families in the community.

As a result, when I was recruited by a prominent clinic in California, it was hard to say no. I have moved my primary practice to California, in a cash practice, which has enabled me to more than double my annual income immediately. Had I been paid fairly in Oregon, that lovely state would have been able to retain a fantastic medical provider. While I am currently maintaining my license in Oregon to serve patients there, the majority of my patients are no longer Oregonians.

As for those of us who have been able to stay in practice in Oregon, they are doing so at a great economic disadvantage to their peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, raise a family and give back to the community.

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

Sincerely yours,

Julie Brush, ND

Amen Clinics, Encino, California