

FROM THE DESK OF

Michelle Cooper

February 22, 2021

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

Dear House and Senate Health Care Committees, Oregon Legislature,

My name is Michelle Cooper. I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB2673.

In an effort to address a long standing health challenge, I have worked with many types of medical providers. The time and dedication demonstrated by my ND, as part of my care is above and beyond all other experiences. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has ensured I am able to continue living a full and productive life, without excessive levels of prescription medication. She has a wealth of treatment options that do not always equate to increasing strong medications. Without the care she provides, it is likely I would have been forced to look at a medical disability.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescriptions. They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. They offer insight on staying active, managing stress and being as proactive in my healthcare as I desire to be. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I appreciate that I live in Oregon where seeking care from an ND is an option. Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. The discrepancy in compensation is making it challenging for NDs to continue to serve in the multi-faceted role they fill in a comprehensive healthcare experience.

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

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Cooper