

Dr Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO

Naturopathic Cancer Specialist

Wholistic and Integrative care.



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January 31, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, Simply time for Fair Pay.

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Dr. Eliot Edwards, and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support HB 4006.

I am a Naturopathic Doctor specializing in integrative cancer care. I work with patients who are fighting for their lives and want to maintain a strong quality of life. Integrative oncology helps these patients through the conventional cancer treatments including chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. The cost of cancer treatments is astronomical and therefore, most of my patients are reliant on insurance coverage to access my care.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential, desired and unique level of care. I was forced to go out of network with 2 insurance companies this year because of their poor reimbursements. The state could help level the playing field and requires private insurance companies to reimburse NDs on par with our other healthcare colleagues.

My wife, daughter and I moved back to Oregon in 2017. My wife is also a naturopathic physician. We moved back here from Illinois largely because naturopathic physicians are fully licensed and highly integrated into the medical system in this state. Despite that recognition, discrimination in the form of poor reimbursement continues even here in Oregon through unfair practices by the insurance companies. Please help us fix this issue.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB4006 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliot W. Edwards, ND, FABNO