To: Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Care Committee
Date: 2/2/22

For the record, I am writing on behalf of Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO). We strongly urge your support for **HB 4006.**

HB 4006 requires health insurance providers to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians. Naturopathic physicians are licensed healthcare providers and health insurance companies should not have the ability to restrict patient choice. Patients should have a choice of licensed providers and being able to get healthcare services from the providers of their choice.

However, many Oregonians cannot afford to visit a naturopathic physician of their choice due to the need to pay the entire bill out of pocket because their insurer refuses reimbursement. Insurers must not be allowed to continue discriminating against providers duly licensed by the State of Oregon to provide care. This bill will allow Oregonians the choice of receiving services from a naturopathic physician. Now is the time to pass this bill and allow Oregonians the choice of receiving healthcare services from the provider of their without having to worry about the additional cost of the visit as compared to visiting a non-naturopathic physician.

Importantly, HB 4006 is a step forward that is alignment with the legislatively approved *Purposes, Values and Principles* guiding the important work of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. The design of the system that will come before the legislature in 2023 calls for the following:

- Improving the health status of individuals, families and communities
- Protecting individuals from the financial consequences of ill health
- Cost shall not be a barrier
- Choice of providers
- Shall not discriminate against any licensed health care provider.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. We urge you to support HB 4006.

Sincerely,

Zainab Alidina
Health Care for All Oregon Board Member

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