

**February 1, 2022**

**Re: YES ON HB 4006, I'm a Patient and support my ND**

**Dear House Health Care Committee,**

My name is Samantha Willow. I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor. I need you to support HB4006 because Western medicine hasn't been able to help me with multiple conditions I've developed over the years.

I need both my Western medicine doctors and my naturopathic physician. Although I have been a Kaiser patient for many many decades, I've depended on my naturopathic physician/acupuncturist for my Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, achy knees, SIBO, and now Chronic Kidney Disease, stage high 4. I don't know what I'd do without her. She works in concert for my care with my Western medicine practitioners, always deferring to their judgment, though I wish she could just give me her advice without having to worry about conflicting with my Western medicine doctors. She takes on my issues as if they were her own.

Unfortunately in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their contributions to my health and to the healthcare of this state. This puts my doctor on unstable financial ground, and my access to this highly valued care at constant risk.

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my naturopathic doctor. I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance against major medical expenses and my ongoing Western medicine care, and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. That's just not right.

My licensed ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs. Nearly all of them operate in partnership or in network with other providers, truly ensuring that my health is optimized.

My ND takes the time to teach me about my health concerns and how to best manage my health through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, in addition to prescribing medications and treatments.

**I am asking you to please vote yes on HB4006 and ensure fair access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.**

**Sincerely yours,**

Samantha Willow