

From: **Shilpa Bakshi** <sbakshi003@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 6:49 PM

Subject: Re: Seeking your testimonial to support pay parity for ND's, thank you!!

To: <dr.daivati@gmail.com>

Re: Yes on MB 4006. I am a patient and support my ND

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Shilpa Bakshi. I am a patient of Dr Daivati Bharadvaj a Naturopathic Doctor. I would like to share my experience working with her and ask you to support HB4006. There are of course many types of medical providers and models of care. There is the preventive and post surgical care, that my ND provides and then there is the absolute emergency ones when one has to but see ones physician/ surgeon and other MD's. The one I have come to value - and desire to keep seeing - is my ND. I feel cared for and I am cared for with the dedicated time and attention to my healthcare needs. During my last surgery I did not even get to meet my surgeon.

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 doctor. I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance against major medical expenses 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. Whether it be my annual exam, lab orders, other health screenings and prescriptions. They also refer me to competent providers and specialists in the conventional medicine world as needed. 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

Shilpa Bakshi