

**February 2, 2022**

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

**Dear House Health Care Committee,**

My name is Patricia (Sue) Lowery, and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor. I would like to share my experience working with this medical provider and to **ask you to support HB4006.**

There are of course many types of medical providers and models of care. I have experienced many over the course of my life. The one I have come to value the most - and desire to keep seeing - is my ND. She is the smartest, most talented, most caring person I have ever met and she literally saved my life when other doctors and specialist kept telling me there was nothing they could do for me. I was referred to this ND by my primary care physician at OHSU. And bless her heart for doing so – she is also a good doctor. My ND is known and respected throughout the medical community in Portland and throughout the State. She cares for patients at Kwan Yin Health Clinic (rated as Best Medical Providers in Portland by Portland Magazine for several years in row). She also participates in research projects, and lectures and teaches across Oregon and the United States. My ND is one of the top Medical Providers in her field. I was so lucky to find her when I needed her most.

Unfortunately, in Oregon, my ND and other ND's serving this State are not being fairly compensated for their contributions to my health and to the healthcare of others in this state. This puts my doctor on unstable financial ground, it puts a well loved and respected Medical Clinic at risk and it puts my access to this highly valued care at risk as well.

I am now retired and on Medicare with a good United Healthcare supplement. When I first saw my ND I was working and on Kaiser Insurance and later switch it to Moderna hoping that the new insurance would cover the healthcare I needed and was getting with my ND. Nope – didn't happen. Kaiser, Moderna and now Medicare and United Healthcare will not cover ANY of the treatment I get from my ND.

It has made my life difficult as I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance against major medical expenses and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care.

You know what happened? My ND who saved my life by curing me of a life threatening, painful and debilitating illness just didn't get paid what she deserved. She bent over backward to save me and she accepted what I could afford to pay her – which wasn't much. All those years of training, all the tremendous work she has done for this State and her community, and all the training she provides to other Practitioners and ND's in Oregon and across the US is probably done free gratis. It's shameful and it makes it hard for the people of this State and the people that need the care of their ND's. It's wrong and it needs to end and **I am begging you to support HB 4006** and end this unfair practice now. ND's and the organizations that support them have been coming to you for 8 years now and every year

you have failed to make it a priority. I call foul. This is wrong and it needs to be changed. Think about all the good this will do for the people of Oregon. It is way past time for us and the State of Oregon to truly support the exceptional work of our healthcare providers. They are our HEROS risking their lives and their well-being everyday – for us! It is time to let them know that we care about them too!

In addition to saving my life, my licensed ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs. Whether it be my annual exam, lab orders, other health screenings and prescriptions. She also refers 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 yours,

Patricia Sue Lowery

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