

FROM THE DESK OF

Anna Sylvester, PharmD

February 2, 2022

Re: HB4006, Vote YES to Support Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Anna Sylvester and I am a pharmacist working as an ambulatory care clinical coordinator. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon with licensed Naturopathic Doctors as a pharmacist and ask you to please support HB 4006.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Naturopathic Doctors, specifically during a period of time I worked at Old Town Clinic in Portland. I appreciate the unique and valuable skill set and approach to care that they offer. I have found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable, competent, and well trained clinically. Most importantly I recognize the importance of NDs roles as primary care providers to prevent illness and contribute to a lower burden of those requiring pharmaceutical management for acute and chronic condition, including pain.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it more difficult for NDs to stay in network with some insurance companies and in practice, especially as primary care providers, and deliver this essential and unique level of care. Additionally, it makes it untenable for most clinics and hospitals to hire NDs as employees during a time of healthcare provider shortages. NDs should be compensated fairly for the care they are able to deliver to the people of Oregon.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB 4006 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Sylvester, PharmD

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