



# Peterson Clinic

*Caring for the Whole Person...Naturally!*

Since 1953

February 2, 2022

Re: YES ON HB 4006, Simply time for Fair Pay.

Dear House Health Care Committee,

My name is Anton Alder and I am a Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in rural Northeast Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support HB 4006.

I have always loved helping people. Early in my life I decided that I would be a doctor and I stuck to it. While it took me a long time to discover the kind of doctor I wanted to be, my goal of providing the absolute best care possible remained the same. To that cause, I have sacrificed years of hard work to obtaining a well-rounded education and experience. This includes naturopathic medical school to become a licensed physician so that I could practice medicine in the community I grew up in. I love being part of the health care team, even during a pandemic that has changed lives and livelihood forever.

As a rural provider I often manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, whether it be their annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). I also make referrals to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. I teach my patients about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve their sleep and become more proactive in their own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete long-term care plan that ultimately results in cost-savings.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. This makes it more difficult for people like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential, desired and unique level of care. The state is allowing private insurance companies to limit access to healthcare for patients and their families in the community.

For those of us who have been able to choose to stay in the plans, we do so at a great economic disadvantage to our peers, making it difficult to repay student loans, support staff and their families and give back to the community. We need to pass HB 4006 to give NDs a fair chance to be compensated for their work and give patients access through their insurance to the healthcare of their choice.

With deepest regards,

Anton L Alder, ND