

February 2, 2022

Re: HB4006, Support Fair Pay for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear Senate and Health Care Committee Members,

My name is Melanie Rickmann and I am a patient of a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and your constituent. I would like to share my experience working with an ND as a medical provider and ask you to please support HB4006.

I have worked with many types of medical providers, and none have taken the time and shown the care in my health and welfare like my naturopathic physician. The level of education, support and competent care that I have received has not only helped me move forward with my health conditions, but has renewed my faith in the healthcare system.

Unfortunately, right now in Oregon NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in this great state. This makes it more difficult for people like me to access this unique and essential level of care. It also limits my choices when it comes to healthcare.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs whether it be my annual physical, lab orders, health screenings or prescription(s). They also refer me to other competent providers and specialists when appropriate. In addition, they teach me about diet and nutrition, how to stay active, manage stress, improve my sleep and become more proactive in my own healthcare. All of these things come together to create a more complete treatment plan for my health and I have never felt better.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB4006 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Melanie Rickmann