

**Oriol Zemko <oriol@pohalaclic.com>** Wed, Mar 8, 11:13 AM (22 hours ago)

to me

March 2, 2023

Re: HB 2555, Vote YES to Support Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Oriol Zemko and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner working in primary care/family medicine as well as specialty population care. I would like to share my experience working in Oregon with licensed Naturopathic Doctors and ask you to please support HB 2555.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Naturopathic Doctors, some of them as covering PCPs and some as specialty ND-LACs. 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. I feel lucky to regularly share patients and have the opportunity to expand my own knowledge and skills in collaboration. I recognize the great importance of NDs in their role as primary care providers to prevent illness and help reduce the need for pharmaceutical, surgical and hospital management. Their unique education equips them well in this role and enables them to offer treatment alternatives that patients truly desire. They are thus a valuable part of a healthcare team and the state's workforce in general.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it difficult for NDs to stay in network with insurance companies, and even to remain in practice for their patients. Additionally, it makes it untenable for most clinics and hospitals to hire NDs as employees, and 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 2555 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,

Oriol Zemko, FNP-BC

Pohala Clinic

TrueU Clinic

Full Spectrum Therapy--

**Oriol Zemko, Family Nurse Practitioner**

**they/them pronouns**

**Pohala Clinic**