

Bread and Badger <info@breadandbadger.com> Wed, Feb 15, 9:17 AM (1 day ago)

to me

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Amanda Siska. I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working with my doctor, and ask you to support HB2555.

Though there are many diverse and valuable types of medical providers, the provider that I, above all, value for my regular care is my ND. The clinical expertise and unique training that my doctor offers, coupled with the dedicated time and attention given to all my concerns, makes her irreplaceable to me.

I've only just begun working with an ND, but she is already irreplaceable. When my regular PCP couldn't solve the mysteries of my digestive health issues, I had to turn elsewhere to get the care that I need. My ND is prescribing lab tests to learn more about my gut function, and taking time to explain everything to me with patience and care.

This is the best type of preventive medicine and will save me from worse illness or more expensive treatments down the line.

Unfortunately, naturopathic doctors in Oregon are not being fairly compensated for the care they give me and for the important role they play in our state's healthcare workforce. Naturopathic doctors are paid about half of what all the other provider types (MDs, DOs, NPs and PAs) are paid for the same exact billing code and same service provided. This discrepancy puts my doctor on unstable financial ground and puts my access to my provider of choice in jeopardy. Naturopathic doctors are being forced to drop insurance plans to remain financially viable.

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. I cannot afford to both purchase health insurance and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. It's not only unfair, it's unrealistic. I need my ND to stay in network with my insurance and to stay in business!

I am asking you to please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure access to licensed naturopathic doctors.

Sincerely,
Amanda Siska
Portland, OR