

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Lori Ann Burd, I am very fortunate to be 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.

My ND is my and my husband's primary care doctor. She provides excellent care, leaps and bounds above the care either of us have ever received from any other doctor. Her specific training and education have provided her with an incredible skillset that has vastly improved both of our health and our lives overall. Without my doctor, I have no doubt that we would both be in poorer health, and have diminished ability to work and quality of life as a result, as she treats us both for multiple conditions.

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 him/her/them irreplaceable to me.

My ND manages the majority of my healthcare needs, whether it be my annual wellness visits, necessary lab and imaging tests, preventive screening exams or vital prescriptions. They also refer me to medical specialists as needed, working in partnership with other providers to offer a truly integrative approach to my healthcare.

My ND takes the time to teach me about my health and how to best manage my concerns through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, and improving my sleep, in addition to prescribing medications or alternative treatments. This is the best type of preventive medicine and has saved 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 am asking you to please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure access to licensed naturopathic doctors.

Sincerely,  
Lori Ann Burd  
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