

NDs deserve Fair Pay

Katy Kippen Tue, Feb 14, 11:11 AM (2 days ago)

to me

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Kathleen Kippen.

I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) here in Portland, Oregon. I want 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. My doctor's clinical expertise and unique training, coupled with the dedicated time and attention given to all my concerns, make her irreplaceable to me.

My ND helps me with my annual wellness visits, labs, preventive screening exams, and meds.

My ND teaches me about my health and how to best manage my concerns through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, improving my sleep, and prescribing medications or alternative treatments. This is the best type of preventive medicine and has saved me from worse illnesses 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 the same service provided. This discrepancy puts my doctor on unstable financial grounds and jeopardizes my access to my provider of choice. 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 purchase both health insurance and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care. It's not only unfair, but it's also 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,
Kathleen Kippen
Portland Oregon