

# Urging Support for HB 2555

External

HB2555



**Amy Carlson** <amycarlson@comcast.net> Tue, Feb 14, 11:34 AM (2 days ago)

to me

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Amy, and I'm a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND) in Oregon. I'm writing to ask for your support of HB2555.

While I work with many types of doctors, and they all add value to my health care, my ND and acupuncturist are the only ones from whom I consistently receive holistic care, with a lens on my whole, interconnected system.

The clinical expertise and unique training that my ND offers, coupled with the dedicated time and attention given to all my concerns, makes her irreplaceable to me for regular health care. I access my ND for regular 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.

Importantly, my ND also takes time to teach me about my health and how to best manage my concerns through diet and nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress, improving my sleep, and taking care of my emotional well-being – which are all foundational and surprisingly hard to manage well at times. This is truly preventive medicine and has absolutely saved me from worse illness or more expensive treatments down the line.

Frustratingly, 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.

This is totally unacceptable to me, particularly given how often other providers can't address root cause questions related to my conditions.

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. Like many others, having to purchase health insurance and pay out of pocket for my regular and preventive care is a financial burden that is not only unfair, it's unrealistic, and

unnecessary. 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,

Amy Carlson

Portland, Oregon

