

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Michelle OFSTUN and I am a patient of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND). I would like to ask you to support HB2555.

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 exact same billing code(s) and the 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,

Michelle Ofstun  
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