

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Silvia Prochnow. My husband and I am are patients of a licensed naturopathic doctor (ND). Please support HB2555. Though there are many diverse and valuable types of medical providers, We truly value our care from our difference NDs.

Due to their experience and focus, various other doctors have referred us to the field to these doctors of Natural Healing.

I am 69 years old. In 2001/02 I had a workers compensation case. I was given a series of 3 cortisone injections which at times worked and other time did not work. I was also prescribed medications which are no longer being prescribed, due to the many adverse side effects. I was one of those individuals who had blood in my urine after months of taking one of these medications.

In 2019-21, I was suffering from worsening Kidney disease which was causing blood pressure of 220/115!!!!!! Conventional medicine was possibly helping in some way or another, but was causing me to be almost un functional, due to overcoming dizzy spells that cause balance and vision issues, shaking, the feeling of fainting and made feel like throwing up

In 2021, I started consulting 3 natural doctors post kidney surgery. Between my natural path, chiropractor, acupuncturist and natural medicines, I was weaned from the strong medications that were not helping but making me dependent on others for my every day care to the point of not being able to even put my shoes on. I continue with chiropractic and acupuncture care. I manage our properties, drive myself, take care of my husband and myself and continue enjoying life. Had I stayed with the course of medications prescribed by conventional doctors, I would be another dependent on the state. Could the medication that I was taking in 2001/02 have been the start of the kidney disease that almost killed me in 2021?

After experiencing the blood in the urine and developing osteopenia from one of the medications, I looked for alternative healing and asked WC if they could pay for the pain and healing treatments. They did not agree. My treatments at the time were \$100/month for the herbs and treatment was \$480/mo for two months for 12 visits/mo, \$320 for month 3 for 8 visits, and \$40/week for maintenance once per week. One day by mistake the W.C. adjuster sent me a running invoice between the doctor and the insurance carrier. At that time, one doctor's visit was \$300!!!!!! The injections were considered surgery and the cost was outrageous.

My husband is 72 years old. He is suffering from beginning stages Alzheimer. He recently consulted a new acupuncturist who was more cost effective. She examined him by touching him, looking at his eyes and tongue and told him that he was getting Alzheimer, due to lack of oxygen to his brain. Wow!!!! She did not have a history. She did not have an MRI and his condition of Alzheimer was never mentioned to him. I can go into a long story but I hope that you can get the point. She only charges \$45, in comparison to the multiple medications that he has been prescribed in the past and the high medical bills for multiple tests and the high fees to continue seeing a neurologist.

Please, please support and vote yes on HB2555 and ensure access to licensed naturopathic doctors and give equal pay to these practitioners. They are truly life savers by going back to the natural healing that the Lord provided for the world.

Sincerely,
Silvia Prochnow