

Dear House Behavioral Health & Health Care Committee

My name is Elizabeth McKinnell, and I am a patient of a licensed Naturopathic Doctor (ND). I am asking you to support HB 2555 because I have had a positive experience with my ND and strongly believe they should be compensated at the same level as other providers.

My ND has been integral in helping me manage my overall health and well-being. I especially value the time my ND spends educating me on my health and how best to manage my concerns through nutrition, staying active, overcoming stress and improving my sleep. This is a valuable type of preventive medicine.

Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are not fairly compensated for their care and the important role they play in our state's healthcare workforce. It is my understanding that naturopathic doctors are paid about half of what all other provider types (MDs, DOs, NPs and PAs) are paid for the exact same codes and services. **This imbalance puts my doctor on unstable financial grounds and jeopardizes my access to my provider. Naturopathic doctors are being forced to drop insurance plans just to remain financially viable.**

It is essential that I be able to utilize my health insurance to see my doctor. I currently purchase health insurance AND pay out of pocket for the quality of health care I have chosen with my ND. I need my ND to be in-network with my insurance and stay in business!

Please vote yes on HB2555 and ensure patient access to licensed Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth McKinnell