

Dear House Behavioral Health & Health Care Committee

My name is Linda Lockwood 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. In fact I'd say she has brought me amazing health benefits.

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. She is smarter than many MDs I've worked with. I'd say she practices integrative medicine, leading with naturopathic practices. She is in charge of my three prescriptions, sends out for lab work, does women's care, and is my husband and daughter's physician as well.

Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are not being fairly compensated for the care they give and for the important role they play in our state's healthcare workforce. 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 ground and puts my access to the provider of my house in jeopardy. 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 should not be forced to purchase health insurance AND pay out of pocket for the quality of health care that I have chosen. I need my ND to stay in network with my insurance and stay in business!

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

Sincerely,  
Linda Lockwood  
830 Feather Sky NW  
Salem, OR 97304