



Dr. Kaley Bourgeois  
Framework Integrative Medicine  
9735 SW Shady Ln, Suite 303  
Tigard, OR 97223  
P: (503) 594-7373  
F: (888) 346-7793

March 13, 2023

Re: HB 2555, Vote YES to Support Fair Pay for NDs

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Dr. Kaley Bourgeois and I am a naturopathic doctor (ND). I would like to share my experience working in Oregon as a licensed ND and ask you to please support HB 2555.

I love supporting people by providing them with individualized, research based medical care. It's for this reason that I have sacrificed years of my life and invested heavily in medical school in order to establish a practice in my local community. My education and training enable me to offer both conventional standard-of-care treatments and gentle alternatives, such as in depth nutritional and lifestyle interventions for disease prevention.

As a primary care provider, I am licensed to manage the majority of the healthcare needs for my patients, including wellness exams, diagnostic labs, cancer screenings and prescriptions. I make referrals to other providers and specialists when appropriate, and receive referrals from those same specialists. I am in a unique position to support both acute and chronic care needs with an emphasis in disease prevention with education. This unique approach helps to prevent illness and reduce the need for pharmaceutical, surgical and hospital management. In this time of rising healthcare costs and growing provider shortages, naturopathic doctors are essential to the medical workforce.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for our valuable contributions to healthcare. This appalling reimbursement discrepancy by insurance companies makes it very difficult for doctors like me to stay in practice and deliver this essential, desired and unique level of care. Loan payments and the cost of running a medical clinic are significant. It's proving unsustainable to practice in this state with such poor pay. As doctors close their doors, not only are jobs lost, but patients lose their doctor and access to their preferred provider type. The disturbing outcome of this injustice is that private insurance companies are limiting our communities' access to healthcare, and the state is allowing it.

We are here - licensed primary care doctors, working hard to serve our patients and communities. Please helps us to survive and continue to do so by finally passing HB 2555.

Sincerely yours,

*Dr. Kaley Bourgeois*