

3/14/2023

Re: HB 2555, Vote YES to Support Naturopathic Doctors (NDs)

Dear House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Azita Shahgaldi and I am a Dentist . I would like to share my experience working in Oregon with licensed Naturopathic Doctors and ask you to please support HB 2555.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with Naturopathic Doctors both as a patient myself and also referring my patients for various treatments. I appreciate the unique and valuable skill set and approach to care that they offer. I have found NDs to be professional, knowledgeable, competent, and well-trained clinically. I recognize the great importance of NDs in their role as primary care providers to prevent illness and help reduce the need for pharmaceutical, surgical and hospital management. Their unique education equips them well in this role and enables them to offer treatment alternatives that patients truly desire. They are thus a valuable part of a healthcare team and the state's workforce in general.

Unfortunately, NDs are not being fairly compensated for their valuable contributions to healthcare in Oregon. This makes it difficult for NDs to stay in network with insurance companies, and even to remain in practice for their patients. Additionally, it makes it untenable for most clinics and hospitals to hire NDs as employees, and during a time of healthcare provider shortages. NDs should be compensated fairly for the care they are able to deliver to the people of Oregon. I am asking you to vote yes on HB 2555 and support fair pay for Naturopathic Doctors.

Sincerely yours,

Azita Shahgaldi, DMD  
6610 SW Capitol Hwy.  
Portland, OR 97239