



February 7, 2024

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee, my name is Carrie Baldwin-Sayre and I am a naturopathic physician. Thank you for the opportunity to write today on behalf of the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) in support of HB 4130. I am the Associate Vice President of Advancement at the National University of Natural Medicine, past-president of the OANP and a current member of the OANP legislative advocacy committee. There are over 1100 licensed naturopathic physicians in the state of Oregon, and they practice in large and small private clinics, in hospital systems, in federally-qualified health centers, in urban and rural areas, and in academic medical centers.

Naturopathic physicians (NDs) have now been included in this bill via the -01 amendment, and we appreciate that Representative Bowman has included our profession. As NDs, we are inherently patient-centered, and our core tenant is to treat the whole person. We do this with an excellent safety record and high level of quality. Certainly, the high cost of medical care is a significant stressor for patients, and NDs must be particularly cognizant of this since many have moved to cash-based practices due to a lack of pay parity in insurance reimbursement with nearly all other practitioners.

The growing involvement of private equity in healthcare raises important concerns. Studies have shown that costs to patients are often increased, and quality of care often decreases. There is also concern that the closed nature of these investments makes it difficult to monitor practices and ensure patient well-being is prioritized. These kinds of results represent the opposite of the patient-centered, whole-person healthcare that naturopathic physicians practice.

HB4130 will strengthen existing regulation around corporatization of healthcare, and will help to prevent increased costs to patients and worsening of the quality of care.

The OANP urges your support of HB4130 with the amendment to include NDs. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carrie Baldwin-Sayre, ND
OANP Legislative Advocacy Committee