

Submitter:	Leigh Ann Chapman
On Behalf Of:	OANP
Committee:	House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3439

The members of the Patient Advocates for Naturopathic Physicians and the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) urge you to pass HB3439 out of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care. With 1200 Licensed Naturopathic Physicians serving over 100,000 Oregonians each year, HB3439 will help improve delivery of primary care services in our state.

HB3439 requires that insurance companies pay naturopathic doctors (ND) fairly and on par with what other primary care providers are paid for providing the same services. Currently, NDs are reimbursed on average at half the rate of PAs, NPs, DOs and MDs. NDs are well-regulated and licensed as primary care providers. Thousands of Oregonians seek out the safe, effective and integrative care that NDs provide.

My practice includes a large percentage of primary care and as you know there is a shortage of primary care providers in our state. I perform the same PAP exam that a NP or MD provides and my reimbursement is less than half for the same service. There are also insurance companies who do not reimburse my COST for vaccines which means that we have to send children to extra unnecessary visits with MD/ NP providers for vaccines (costing the system double) OR even worse parents choose to defer the vaccine because of the inconvenience of an extra trip and extra copay.

We are considering eliminating primary care and vaccination at our clinic if we are not able to make an equitable reimbursement for the services.

HB3439 has a minuscule fiscal impact of 3 million dollars embedded in the OHA biennial budget, yet the profound positive impact on patient care for Oregonians far outweighs the cost. This allocation would go toward primary care, which has been a priority of this legislature. HB3439 will not only increase patients' ability to choose their doctors, but will also support the hundreds of small businesses across the state that provide naturopathic care.

Please vote "YES" on HB3439 at its upcoming hearing.