

Submitter: Rebecca Provorse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

On behalf of myself a member of the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP), I urge you to pass HB3439 out of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care. With over 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 of half the rate of other PCPs (PAs, NPs, DOs and MDs). Naturopathic physicians are well-regulated and licensed as primary care providers. Thousands of Oregonians seek out the safe, effective and integrative care that NDs provide.

Every year, NDs are financially forced to either lay off staff and close their clinics or to move to a cash model, excluding those who are not affluent. Having practiced medicine in this state for over 20 years, I represent one of these who have transitioned to a cash model to make ends meet. This is diminishing Oregonians' access to safe and effective naturopathic care. We, as a state, should not be complicit in this. Oregon is currently experiencing a primary care provider shortage which will only be exacerbated if HB3439 does not advance.

HB3439 has a small 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. The cost of this bill will be applied to primary care, which has been a priority of this legislature. HB3439 will not only increase patients' ability to select their providers, but will also support the hundreds of small businesses across the state that provide naturopathic care, including my own.

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