

Submitter: Alix Arndt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

The British Columbia Naturopathic Doctors (BCND), the professional association representing naturopathic doctors (NDs) in British Columbia, Canada, stands in solidarity with our colleagues in Oregon. We express our strong support for the members of the Patient Advocates for Naturopathic Physicians and the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) in their call for the passage of HB3439 by the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care.

With over 1,200 Licensed Naturopathic Physicians serving more than 100,000 Oregonians each year, HB3439 presents an essential opportunity to enhance the delivery of primary care services across the state. The bill ensures that insurance companies pay naturopathic doctors fairly and on par with other primary care providers, such as physician assistants (PAs), nurse practitioners (NPs), doctors of osteopathy (DOs), and medical doctors (MDs). Currently, NDs are reimbursed at roughly half the rate of their counterparts, despite being well-regulated and licensed as primary care providers.

This inequitable reimbursement not only undermines the financial sustainability of ND practices but also restricts access to their safe, effective, and integrative care—care that thousands of Oregonians seek and benefit from. As NDs are forced to lay off staff, close clinics, or transition to cash-based models, those unable to afford out-of-pocket expenses are left without access to this vital care. This situation exacerbates the primary care provider shortage in Oregon and hinders efforts to ensure equitable healthcare access for all residents.

HB3439 addresses this pressing issue with a minimal fiscal impact of just \$3 million embedded within the Oregon Health Authority's biennial budget. The positive effects of this allocation, however, are substantial, enhancing patient care access while supporting hundreds of small businesses delivering naturopathic services. This funding aligns with the legislative priority of investing in primary care and promoting patient choice in selecting their healthcare providers.

We urge you to vote "YES" on HB3439 during its upcoming hearing. Passing this bill is a critical step in preserving and expanding access to primary care services, fostering healthier communities, and supporting Oregon's naturopathic physicians in their essential role within the healthcare system.

BCND is proud to stand alongside our Oregon colleagues and remains committed to promoting fair and equitable support for naturopathic doctors everywhere.