

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

I am writing in strong support of HB 3439, which requires individual and group health benefit plans, as well as those offered by the Public Employees' Benefit Board and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board, to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians if those same services are covered when performed by licensed physicians, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners.

Naturopathic physicians are highly trained medical professionals who provide safe, effective, and evidence-based care. They play a critical role in Oregon's healthcare system, offering essential services such as primary care, chronic disease management, and preventative medicine. However, despite their expertise and the vital services they provide, naturopathic physicians often face unjust reimbursement barriers that limit patient access to their care.

This bill promotes healthcare equity by ensuring that patients have the freedom to choose the healthcare provider that best meets their needs without financial discrimination. It also strengthens Oregon's healthcare workforce by supporting a diverse range of licensed medical professionals, ultimately expanding access to high-quality care.

I urge you to support this legislation and ensure that naturopathic physicians receive fair reimbursement for the services they provide, just as other licensed healthcare providers do. By passing this bill, we take an important step toward greater patient choice, improved healthcare access, and a more equitable medical system in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.