

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

To the Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3439, which ensures fair reimbursement for naturopathic physicians who provide essential healthcare services. As a patient who has directly benefited from naturopathic care, I can personally attest to the value these providers bring to Oregon's healthcare system. For years, I struggled with chronic knee pain and persistent throat phlegm, seeking help from various conventional providers with little success. It was only after working with a licensed naturopathic physician that I finally experienced real, lasting improvements. Their comprehensive, patient-centered approach addressed not just my symptoms but the root causes of my condition, leading to better long-term health outcomes. Unlike rushed appointments in conventional settings, my naturopathic doctor took the time to listen, educate, and develop a personalized treatment plan that worked for me.

Despite their rigorous medical training and proven effectiveness, naturopathic physicians continue to face systemic reimbursement barriers, making it difficult for patients to access their care. They spend more time with patients, navigate complex billing issues with insurance companies, and yet are compensated unfairly compared to their conventional counterparts. Why should any professional be paid less for doing more work and achieving better patient outcomes?

Far too often, naturopathic physicians are reimbursed at a fraction of what an MD would receive, even for the same billing code. The choice between seeking care from an MD versus an ND is often polarizing. MD driven care frequently leads to limited long-term improvements and higher costs, with complex and inflated payment structures. In contrast, NDs offer a more straightforward, cost-effective, and results-driven approach. Given Oregon's progressive ideals and commitment to holistic health, we should be leading the charge in ensuring fair compensation for NDs.

Currently, insurance companies incentivize profit-driven models rather than prioritizing patient well-being. This violates the ethical principles outlined in the Hippocratic Oath, which states that healthcare providers should:

Do No Harm: Physicians must prioritize patient well-being above all else.

Practice with Integrity: Uphold ethical medical standards and honesty in treatment.

Protect Patient Confidentiality: Safeguard patient trust and privacy.

Commit to Lifelong Learning: Continuously advance medical knowledge and care.

Respect Human Life: Treat all patients with compassion, dignity, and fairness.

By passing HB 3439, Oregon will take a critical step toward fixing our broken healthcare system and ensuring that patients can access the providers who best meet their needs. We must put an end to the corrupt financial structures that prioritize insurance company profits over quality patient care. This is the year for change. The current system is not working, and we can no longer pretend that it is.

I urge you to support HB 3439 and stand with the thousands of Oregonians who rely on naturopathic medicine for their health and well-being. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marshall Maxwell