

Submitter: Lindsay Baum

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

The time is overdue for Oregon to force appropriate compensation for all primary care doctors. Insurers will not do this on their own. The cost of staffing, administration, EHR, supplies, overhead, and patient management is literally the same across all primary care providers. With constant increases in staffing pay over the last ten years the profession is at risk of collapsing, with nearly 50% of naturopathic primary care doctors planning to close their practice in the next year without change.

It is critical that the gap in primary care in rural and Medicaid populations be closed. Naturopathic medicine is a solution. My clinic provides care to over 5,000 Medicaid recipients in Multnomah county, hood river county, Clackamas county and Washington county. If we close our doors there is no one to take these patients on.

Insurers know they are making great profit off our labor, they've studied it and published it. We save them money by preventing unnecessary emergency room visits, increasing immunization rates, reducing reliance on long term , expensive pharmaceuticals.

The recent national shift in patient consumers is demanding that both parties acknowledge autonomy in the healthcare options they decide. This is the time for both parties to join the Naturopathic profession is offering solutions to patients.

I strongly support this bill. 10,000 of my patients, over the course of my 16 years tenure in the state of Oregon also support us in supporting this bill.