

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

I am writing in strong support of this. Pay parity is long overdue for Naturopathic doctors. They are a stronghold of the primary care industry in Clackamas county, and our family has often found better care from these providers. During the pandemic the mother of my children died of COVID and my children and I relied heavily on the care from medical providers. We also switched from private insurance to Medicaid suddenly and we were able to receive care from a naturopathic primary care clinic. These providers were incredible, helping the kids find mental health resources, addressing school and home social issues, housing issues.

As a Latino parent, one of the things that stood out, was that these providers are like the real deal doctors in all the television shows about the small town country doctor- they are invested, go above and beyond, provided better care than we had ever experienced from our MD providers in a more welcoming, clean and safe professional environment. They even call to check on us when the kids are sick and answer pager calls in the middle of the night like we are part of their community! This is how medicine should be practiced, I'm convinced this is the safest way to ensure patients of different races, religions, cultures feel welcomed and heard.

What an embarrassment that our naturopathic doctors are paid 1/3 of what the MD we saw are paid. The naturopathic doctors spend 30-60 minutes with each patient, offer the same pharmaceutical care, blood draws, physical exams, vaccines, mental health support and preventive care the MD offers, in fact they actually follow through. An 8 minute visit with a MD doctor after your kids mom dies of COVID suddenly isn't acceptable. ND's are ethical providers. They deserve the support of the legislators with insurers to be able to support themselves and their employees with livable wages. We are scared our practitioners will change careers soon if this does not move forward. What is status quo today is not sustainable.

Thank you for your support,

A Concerned Latino Father