

Submitter: Matt Brown  
On Behalf Of: OANP  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

Thank you for your careful consideration of my testimony. I hope it will help highlight the importance of considering HB 3439 and the immense beneficial effect it could have on our healthcare system.

As a naturopathic physician devoted to serving our Oregon community, I am eager to highlight how the current disparities in reimbursement rates directly influence how I am able to practice medicine and the services that I offer.

My practice primarily focuses on providing specialized care to underserved patients in our community—many of whom face significant healthcare inequities and worse health outcomes, due to lack of developing a proper physician-patient relationship in our current healthcare model. My patients rely on an affordable cash-pay membership program, as my services as currently reimbursed by insurance would not be economically feasible. This severely limits my ability to see patients who can't afford care outside of their financial means, who are often spending large sums of money to cover their health insurance premiums and deductibles.

Despite my best intentions, the lack of pay parity between NDs and our other healthcare counterparts has created an insurmountable barrier to be able to provide care to those without affluent means. The reduced reimbursement rates for NDs compared to other providers not only strains the financial sustainability of my business but also limits my ability to offer services to those who may benefit most.

The disparities in reimbursement also exacerbate the healthcare inequities my patients face. For instance, insurance coverage that undervalues NDs discourages many patients from seeking care altogether, further widening the gap in health outcomes. This systemic challenge undermines our shared goal of providing competent care to our state's residents.

Providing pay parity benefits our healthcare landscape at large, which continues to forecast a severe shortage of healthcare providers to offer care to an aging population that is growing vastly in number.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this story and hope it can help paint a vivid picture of the broader impact of pay disparities. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I

can provide further details or support your advocacy efforts in any way.

Warm regards,

Dr. Matthew Brown  
Naturopathic Physician and Owner of Ignite HRT