

Submitter: Shelane Oglesby

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

I am writing to urge your support for HB3439, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to establish pay parity for naturopathic physicians (NDs) providing primary care services to Medicaid patients. As a licensed naturopathic physician, I serve a large and diverse population, including over 5,000 Medicaid patients, offering evidence-based primary care that integrates standard medical practices with dietary and lifestyle interventions.

Despite providing the same essential primary care services as other healthcare providers, naturopathic physicians continue to face significant reimbursement disparities under Oregon's Medicaid system. This inequity limits access to high-quality, preventive care for some of our state's most vulnerable populations and undermines the sustainability of our profession.

HB3439 is essential for ensuring that Medicaid patients can continue to receive comprehensive, patient-centered care from NDs. By aligning reimbursement rates with those of other primary care providers, this bill will help sustain and expand access to essential medical services, particularly in underserved communities where NDs often fill critical gaps in healthcare access.

As a provider committed to preventive rather than reactive medicine, I have witnessed firsthand how early intervention and lifestyle-based treatments can reduce long-term healthcare costs and improve patient outcomes. Pay parity will allow naturopathic physicians to continue delivering this high-value care, alleviating strain on Oregon's healthcare system while improving overall public health.

I strongly urge you to support HB3439 and advocate for equitable pay for naturopathic physicians. Ensuring fair compensation for the services we provide will not only support our profession but, more importantly, will enhance access to care for thousands of Oregonians who rely on Medicaid.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to improving healthcare access and equity in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Shelane Oglesby, ND