

Submitter: Shelda Oglesby

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

I am writing as a patient with stage four breast cancer, someone who has been given the precious gift of time thanks to the care of my naturopathic physician. When I was first diagnosed, I feared that my time with my family, especially the chance to see my grandchildren be born, would be cut short. However, the integrative and comprehensive care I have received has not only extended my lifespan but has dramatically improved my quality of life.

Through personalized treatment, lifestyle interventions, and the compassionate care of my naturopathic doctor, I have been able to manage symptoms, maintain my strength, and continue living a meaningful life with my loved ones. Without this care, I would not be here today to witness the milestones that bring me the greatest joy.

Despite providing essential primary care, naturopathic physicians continue to face significant reimbursement disparities under Oregon's Medicaid system. This inequity threatens their ability to continue delivering life-changing care to patients like me. HB3439 is critical in ensuring that naturopathic doctors receive fair compensation for their services, allowing them to sustain and expand their practice for those who need them most.

I urge you to support HB3439 and stand for fair pay for naturopathic physicians. The care I have received has given me more time, greater health, and a quality of life I never imagined possible. No patient should be denied access to such transformative care simply because their provider is not fairly reimbursed.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving healthcare access and equity in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Shelda Oglesby