

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3439 and to share how access to naturopathic primary care has changed my life. As a Medicare patient, I have had to pay out of pocket to see a naturopathic doctor, and while I gladly do so for the quality of care I receive, I know that many others—especially my extended family—do not have this option due to financial constraints.

The personalized, holistic care that I receive from my naturopathic physician has significantly improved my health and well-being. Their approach, which includes preventive medicine, lifestyle interventions, and natural therapies, has helped me manage my health more effectively than conventional approaches alone. However, the financial burden of paying out of pocket makes this type of care inaccessible to many who would benefit from it just as much as I have. If naturopathic physicians were more widely covered by Medicare and Medicaid, my extended family and countless others would have the opportunity to seek this transformative care without financial hardship.

Unfortunately, despite providing essential healthcare services, naturopathic physicians are not reimbursed equitably under Oregon's Medicaid system. This threatens access to the care that has been so life-changing for me and many others in my community. HB3439 is crucial to ensuring that naturopathic clinics can continue to thrive and serve patients who rely on them for primary care.

I urge you to support HB3439 and advocate for fair compensation for naturopathic physicians. Ensuring pay parity will protect patient choice, strengthen healthcare access, and uphold the quality of care in Oregon.

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

Sincerely,