

Submitter: Shae Laneson

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 profoundly changed my life. As a Medicaid recipient and a member of the BIPOC community, I have long struggled to feel truly heard and valued in conventional healthcare settings. Too often, I have felt dismissed or unheard in allopathic doctors' offices, leaving me hesitant to seek the care I needed.

Choosing naturopathic medicine has been a transformative experience for me. My naturopathic physician takes the time to listen, understand my concerns, and work with me to develop a plan that respects my unique needs and background. I finally feel safe discussing my health openly, knowing that my voice matters and my concerns will not be overlooked. This level of personalized, compassionate care has improved my health outcomes in ways I never thought possible.

However, despite providing essential healthcare services, naturopathic physicians are not reimbursed equitably under Oregon's Medicaid system. This disparity threatens my access to the care that has made such a difference in my life and that could do the same for so many others in my community. HB3439 is essential to ensuring that naturopathic clinics continue to thrive and serve patients who have long felt marginalized in traditional healthcare settings.

I urge you to support HB3439 and advocate for fair compensation for naturopathic physicians. Equitable reimbursement will not only ensure access to high-quality care for Medicaid patients but will also foster a healthcare system where every patient—regardless of background—feels seen, heard, and valued.

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

Sincerely,  
Shae Laneson