

Submitter: Tyler Keliheleua

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

To whom this may concern, my name is Tyler Keliheleua and I am a small business owner and licensed Naturopathic Physician practicing in Beaverton, Oregon. I have been in full-time practice since 2008, have 10 employees and serve thousands of people in Beaverton and in the greater Portland Metro area. I am asking that you pass this pay bill calling for pay parity for ND's immediately, as it is long overdue. For 17 years I've done the work of other licensed medical providers, but I've done so at a fraction of the pay. Because of this, I've had to end my participation with most insurance plans in order to stay in business. This means I cannot employ as many people in my business. It means limited access thousands of insurance based patients. And over the years, it has also meant a significant financial hardship to my family. As a licensed naturopathic physician, I incur a similar level of debt to medical doctors, nurse practitioners, and typically more than physician assistants, yet I am asked to do so at a reimbursement rate that is on average at 50 cents to the dollar. I would be happy to discuss the real life ramifications of the current state of reimbursement for ND's as needed. Thank you!