

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

Dear Members of the House Congressional Committee,

I'm writing today in strong support of HB 3439, a bill that ensures fair pay for naturopathic physicians when providing the same services as other licensed medical providers. This issue is more than just policy—it's personal.

I grew up here in Oregon, and from a young age, I spent more time in doctors' offices than most kids ever should. I was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA) and Guillain-Barré syndrome, and for much of my childhood, I was acutely ill. My family and I struggled to find answers, navigating a fragmented healthcare system that didn't seem to know what to do with a child in chronic pain. Eventually, we had to travel to Seattle Children's Hospital to get the care I needed, but even then, I was left with more questions than solutions.

Through all of this, the only providers who really took the time to help me understand my body and find ways to manage my symptoms were naturopathic doctors. They didn't just hand me a prescription and send me on my way. They listened. They helped me work on nutrition, movement, and lifestyle in ways that actually made a difference. Without that support, I would have been completely lost in a system that often dismissed what I was going through.

As an adult, I continued to struggle with an undiagnosed version of arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, that left me in chronic pain and impacted my ability to work and function. When I sought help from conventional medicine, I was repeatedly told that it was all in my head—that I was "just anxious" or "stressed." But when I found the right naturopathic doctors, they didn't gaslight me. They believed me. They helped me get the right treatment, and for the first time in years, I started to feel live without pain.

This experience and navigating the healthcare system as a patient and an advocate for my sister who had cancer and my mother who also has a chronic arthritis is why I left my PhD in biomedical engineering at OHSU to become a naturopathic physician. Because people like me—people with complex, chronic illnesses who fall through the cracks of our healthcare system—deserve better. I believe strongly that my peers are excellent providers and well trained. We have scientifically rigorous backgrounds and compliment conventional care filling a crucial gap.

Why HB 3439 Matters

Right now, Oregon is facing a public health crisis of chronic disease—autoimmune conditions, metabolic disorders, digestive dysfunction, and mental health challenges are at an all-time high. Patients need more options, not fewer, and they need providers who can take the time to treat the root cause of their illness.

Naturopathic doctors fill critical gaps in the healthcare system, providing evidence-based, patient-centered care that focuses on prevention, education, and whole-person healing. We reduce the burden on primary care and emergency rooms by keeping patients healthier and more resilient.

Yet, despite our rigorous medical education and the proven effectiveness of our care, insurance companies continue to reimburse NDs at lower rates than other providers for the exact same services. This creates barriers to patient access, drives providers out of practice, and makes it harder for people to get the care they need.

This bill does not expand the scope of practice or create new mandates. It simply ensures that when a naturopathic doctor performs a reimbursable service within their legal scope, they are paid the same rate as physicians, PAs, and NPs for the same work.

At the end of the day, this is about fairness, patient access, and making sure that Oregon's healthcare system serves everyone—especially those of us with chronic and complex conditions who don't fit neatly into a standard model of care.