

Submitter: Angie Rademacher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

I am writing to address the pressing issue of pay disparity faced by naturopathic physicians in Oregon. As a dedicated healthcare provider committed to delivering patient-centered, preventative care, I believe it is imperative to ensure equitable compensation for naturopathic doctors to maintain access to quality healthcare services.

Naturopathic physicians in Oregon often encounter reimbursement rates significantly lower than those received by other licensed healthcare providers for comparable services. For instance, reimbursement rates can be up to 50% less for the same procedures compared to other licensed doctors. This disparity not only undermines the financial sustainability of naturopathic practices but also limits patient access to diverse healthcare options.

In addition to reimbursement disparities, naturopathic physicians face significant challenges with student loan repayment. The average salary for a naturopathic physician in Oregon is approximately \$109,867 per year. Given the substantial student loan debt incurred during their education, this income often proves insufficient to manage loan repayment effectively.

Addressing the reimbursement disparities faced by naturopathic physicians is crucial for ensuring that patients have access to preventative care and the healthcare provider of their choice. I urge you to consider supporting legislative efforts aimed at achieving pay parity. By doing so, we can promote a more equitable healthcare system that benefits both providers and patients alike.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Angie Rademacher, ND, LAc, RN