

To: Oregon Legislature House Committee:

I am writing as a patient who relies on naturopathic medicine for my primary healthcare needs. I have built a strong and trusting relationship with my naturopathic physician, who provides me with compassionate, evidence-based care that integrates standard medical practices with dietary and lifestyle interventions. Their holistic approach to my health has been invaluable in managing my well-being and preventing illness. However, I am deeply concerned about the disparities in reimbursement that naturopathic physicians face under Oregon's Medicaid system. Despite offering the same level of primary care as other healthcare providers, they are not reimbursed equitably, which threatens my ability to continue receiving the care I trust and depend on. HB3439 is essential to ensure that patients like me can continue to access high-quality, patient-centered care from the providers we choose. By establishing pay parity for naturopathic physicians, this bill will help sustain and expand access to vital medical services, particularly for those of us who rely on Medicaid. The preventive care I receive from my naturopathic doctor has made a significant difference in my health and quality of life. Their ability to spend time with me, address my concerns thoroughly, and focus on long-term wellness has kept me healthier and reduced my need for costly emergency interventions. This bill will not only support the professionals who provide this care but will also improve overall healthcare outcomes and cost-effectiveness for our state. 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 for thousands of Oregonians like me. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to improving healthcare access and equity in Oregon.

In closing, I find it absurd that naturopathic doctors (ND's) that have the same training as MD's and even more training in herbs and other supplements are paid at a much lower level. Naturopathic supplements combined with standard western medicine can enhance and provide a better quality of life for us patients. I'm sure there is competition in the medical field or others that opposes this measure. My daughter, who just graduated naturopathic medical school and passed her boards at the top of her class, is now a resident and is paid at a much lower level than regular MD's but is managing critical care patients. Four medical doctors including my primary care physician misdiagnosed my DVT and PE a few years ago. If it wasn't for my daughter, I may not be writing this testimony today. She was an MA at the time. My wife has stage 4 bone cancer but with the combination of western medicine and the help of naturopathic supplements and herbs has beaten the odds for longevity and quality of life. Of all the specialists we know, most of them go to naturopathic doctors. Why is that? To me, it's because they care more about the patient, spend more time with the patient and quite frankly provide better care. Naturopathic doctors diagnose the same illnesses and diseases that MD's do but spend more time with the patient. I'll be 70 this year and other than the blood thinners from the blood clots (Covid), I only take supplements and no other drugs. Oregon recognizes naturopathic medical doctors. It's about time they're paid the same as other doctors too. This change will also allow us to use Medicare which is currently not allowed.

Sincerely,

Duane R, Oglesby

President

Oglesby Construction Company, LLC