



K o a T r e e H e a l t h

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Gibran Ramos, ND, MSOM, Lac
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Portland, OR 97214

Chair Representative Rob Nosse

Vice Chair Representative Cyrus Javadi

Vice Chair Representative Travis Nelson

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3439 – Reimbursement Parity for Naturopathic Physicians

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi, Vice Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Gibran Ramos, and I am writing as an Oregon citizen and licensed Naturopathic Doctor in strong support of HB 3439. I want to share my experience to highlight why this bill is essential for the sustainability of primary care in our state.

I was honored to serve as a primary care provider in a multidisciplinary clinic alongside nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Like my colleagues, I provided comprehensive care - managing chronic illnesses, diagnosing and treating acute conditions, and promoting preventative health. However, despite delivering the same services, I was reimbursed nearly 40% less than my non-ND colleagues.

This financial disparity became a crisis for the clinic. The lower reimbursement made it financially unsustainable to keep me on staff, and ultimately, I was asked to leave - not because of the quality of my care, but because the clinic could not afford to retain support staff with the lower revenue from my visits. When I left the clinic, my patients lost access to their trusted provider, and I lost the ability to continue serving my community in that setting. With reduced support staff, I now serve 30% fewer patients per week.

This is not just my story, it is a systemic issue that has forced many NDs out of primary care, worsening provider shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas. HB 3439 ensures fair reimbursement based on the services provided, not the provider's title. By requiring insurers to reimburse naturopathic doctors at the same rate as physicians, PAs, and NPs for the same work, this bill will stabilize clinics, improve access to care, and allow NDs to continue serving where they are needed most.

I urge you to support HB 3439 to create a fair and sustainable healthcare system for all Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gibran Ramos, ND, MSOM, LAc