

Submitter: Sabra Royer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Please vote "YES" on HB3439 at its upcoming hearing.

I am a naturopathic doctor and am very dedicated to providing high-quality primary care. Oregon is currently experiencing a primary care provider shortage which will only be exacerbated if HB3439 does not advance. I am currently booking more than eight months out for new patients. Without additional support, I cannot see more patients than I already do. If Pay Parity passes, it will give us the resources needed to hire more staff and ultimately improve access to care for our community.

Unfortunately, the current reimbursement rates for naturopathic doctors do not cover the costs of operating a medical practice. Currently, NDs are reimbursed on average at half the rate of PAs, NPs, DOs and MDs. Low health insurance reimbursement rates create substantial challenges for our office. Current rates limit our ability to offer front desk staff and employees the compensation they truly deserve. On a personal level, I would struggle to earn a living wage working full-time if I weren't married.

HB3439 will not only increase patients' ability to choose their doctors, but will also support the hundreds of small businesses across the state. Increasing insurance reimbursement rates through Pay Parity will allow us to adequately compensate our team for the tremendous work we do. It will also enable us to grow our support staff—such as front desk personnel and medical assistants—which is critical for expanding access to care.

Please vote "YES" on HB3439 at its upcoming hearing.

Thank you!