

Submitter: Dr. Staci Whitman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Dear House Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for pay parity for Naturopathic Doctors (NDs). For the past 20 years, I have exclusively seen a naturopath for my healthcare needs. I take no prescription medications, have no health issues, and consistently maintain excellent lab results—clear personal evidence of the effectiveness of naturopathic care.

As a board-certified pediatric dentist, my approach goes beyond conventional dentistry. I work to identify and address the root causes of oral disease, particularly when traditional dental and medical providers overlook critical factors. NDs play a crucial role in this process by testing for and addressing gut health, Vitamin D, Vitamin C, zinc, B vitamins, and other micronutrient deficiencies. Additionally, conditions such as Candida overgrowth, H. pylori infections, Celiac disease, and Crohn's disease—all well-documented contributors to oral and systemic health—are areas where NDs provide invaluable insight and treatment.

This value extends beyond my professional practice to my own family. Both of my children suffered from underlying health issues—untreated parasites and dysbiosis—that their conventional pediatricians overlooked. Only after working with an ND were we able to identify and properly address these concerns, restoring their health. This experience reinforced for me that both conventional and naturopathic doctors play critical roles in achieving optimal patient outcomes. While conventional medicine excels in acute and chronic disease management, naturopathic medicine focuses on prevention and addressing root causes. A collaborative approach between these disciplines is essential for comprehensive patient care.

As a provider myself, I understand firsthand the challenges of low reimbursement rates. In fact, recently I reluctantly had to drop another dental insurance due to unsustainable reimbursements that did not cover my overhead. If NDs achieve pay parity, more Oregon patients will have access to the comprehensive, preventative care they need, reducing the burden on our healthcare system in the long run.

I strongly urge decision-makers to support pay parity for NDs so they can continue to help patients achieve true health and well-being. Please feel free to attach this letter as needed for testimony.

Sincerely,
Dr. Staci Whitman, IFMCP, DMD
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