

Submitter: Dr Sarah Angsten D.O.
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

February 24, 2025

HB 3439

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

I am writing in opposition of HB 3439 regarding reimbursement for naturopathic physicians to be in the same amount as payment to physicians (MD/DO). The training of a MD/DO physician involves four years of medical school, the last two years which are spent boots-on-the-ground in clinics and hospitals training, followed by a minimum of three years of residency training in clinics and hospitals. This training includes understanding the pathophysiology of the various disease processes, the pharmacology of the proposed treatments and general surgical practices.

A primary care MD/DO physician is responsible for the complete health care of their patient to include the management of acute and chronic diseases, preventative services, ordering and interpretation of labs and radiology services, prescription refills, prior authorization completion, ordering durable medical equipment and providing 24/7 call coverage for patients needing after hours advice. A primary care physician is also aware of their patient's hospitalizations and ensures follow up in a timely manner at their discharge.

During an office visit for which equal pay parity is being requested of in HB 3439, an MD/DO physician provides additional non-RVU services such as work to meet metrics, PCPCH, collecting REALD data and obtaining and managing social determinants of health. These services are provided to all patients equally regardless of insurance. There is current precedent that mid-level provider (physician assistants and nurse practitioner) are reimbursed at a lower rate by insurance companies.

In summary, the services provided by MD/DO physicians are high-quality and should be reimbursed by insurance companies at a higher rate.

Regards,

Sarah L. Agsten D.O.

Family Tree Medical Clinic

Roseburg, OR