

Submitter: JILL STANSBURY

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Dear Honorable Committee,

I have taught at the naturopathic university in Portland for over 35 years and am writing to support this bill for pay parity. Naturopathic physicians spend more time with their patients, listen more deeply than their conventional counterparts. They work on treating the underlying contributors to health, not just offer the quickest fix possible. Because of this deep work, patients' lives are affected and health is affected for the better. Some problems can be "cured", the progression of other problems slowed or altered for the better, and the other problems still prevented altogether. Investing in naturopathic physicians makes for healthier people and families and will save on healthcare costs down the line. Chronic diseases can be slowed or reversed, some surgical interventions prevented, and vitality in the workplace and community improved. Naturopathic physicians are every bit as bright and talented as the allopathic counterpart, and these physicians often care deeply and spend a great amount of time with each patient, and a great amount of time researching and reviewing the scientific literature on their own time. Investing in naturopathic physicians is cost-saving and is investing in the health of the community for far into the future.

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