

Submitter: Natasha Kassam

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Dear Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

As a Naturopathic Physician who has been practicing for over 17 years in Oregon, I urge you to pass HB3439 to ensure equitable reimbursement for licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs) who serve over 100,000 Oregonians each year.

Right now, NDs are being reimbursed at about half the rate of other primary care providers (PAs, NPs, DOs, MDs) for the exact same services. This isn't just unfair—it's actively restricting access to safe, effective, and evidence-based care for thousands of Oregonians. NDs are licensed and regulated as primary care providers, yet insurance reimbursement policies continue to marginalize our profession and the patients we serve.

This disparity has real consequences: every year, NDs are forced to close their clinics or switch to cash-based models, leaving countless patients—especially those in underserved communities—without care. Oregon is already facing a primary care provider shortage, and without HB3439, this crisis will only deepen.

The fiscal impact of this bill is just \$3 million within the OHA biennial budget—a tiny fraction of healthcare spending—yet the return on investment in accessible, preventive, and patient-centered primary care is invaluable. HB3439 ensures that patients can choose the providers they trust while also supporting hundreds of small businesses that keep naturopathic care alive in Oregon.

I urge you to vote YES on HB3439 and take a stand for healthcare access, fairness, and patient choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.