

Submitter: EMAD BASHA

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Emad Basha, and I am a student at the National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM) in Oregon. As a future naturopathic doctor (ND) and a dedicated advocate for the principles of naturopathic medicine, I am writing to share my support for House Bill 3439, which aims to secure equitable reimbursement for naturopathic doctors from insurance companies. In Oregon, naturopathic doctors play a crucial role as primary care providers, delivering a holistic approach to healthcare that prioritizes preventive care and patient wellness. This model not only enhances individual health outcomes but also contributes significantly to the overall public health of our communities. Unfortunately, the existing disparities in reimbursement between NDs and other healthcare providers, including MDs, DOs, PAs, and NPs, pose challenges to our ability to provide effective, comprehensive care.

As I approach the completion of my education, I anticipate graduating with over \$250,000 in student loan debt. It is disheartening to see that naturopathic doctors are not recognized equitably in terms of insurance reimbursement. While other primary care providers receive maximum compensation from insurance companies, NDs encounter considerable financial barriers that can hinder our practices and the quality of care we can offer.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3439 to promote fair compensation for naturopathic doctors, ensuring that we can continue to serve our patients effectively while alleviating the financial burdens that our profession faces. By improving reimbursement standards for NDs, we can further integrate naturopathic medicine into Oregon's healthcare framework, benefiting both healthcare providers and the communities we serve.

Thank you for considering this critical issue. I sincerely appreciate your commitment to fostering equitable healthcare practices within our state and your support for the naturopathic community.

Warm regards,

Emad Basha

Doctoral Candidate, Naturopathic Medicine

National University of Natural Medicine