

Submitter: Abby Thexton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to let you know that I am very thankful for HB3439, which will require insurance companies to reimburse naturopathic physicians at fair and equitable rates. As a naturopathic medical student, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of insurance discrimination against NDs and how it limits access to essential healthcare for Oregonians.

Despite being licensed as primary care providers in Oregon, NDs are routinely reimbursed at rates significantly lower than their MD, DO, NP, and PA counterparts for the exact same services. This disparity forces many naturopathic physicians to move to cash-based models, leaving thousands of patients—many of whom rely on insurance to access healthcare—without affordable options.

Oregon is already facing a primary care provider shortage, and failing to support HB3439 will only worsen this crisis. NDs play a crucial role in preventive medicine, chronic disease management, and integrative care—services that ultimately reduce the long-term costs of healthcare by keeping patients healthier and out of hospitals. Ensuring fair compensation for NDs means increasing access to care, supporting small healthcare businesses, and strengthening our state's healthcare system.

HB3439 has a minimal fiscal impact on the state yet carries enormous benefits for both patients and providers. I urge you to pass this bill and help ensure that Oregonians have equitable access to the primary care they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.