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To: Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Support for HB 3439 – Equitable Insurance Reimbursement for Naturopathic Doctors

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon House Bill 3439, which seeks to require insurance companies to reimburse **Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) equitably** for the primary care services we provide. As a licensed **primary care provider**, I perform the same essential duties as an MD or DO, including diagnosing and treating patients, ordering labs and imaging, prescribing medications, and coordinating care—yet I am not compensated at the same rate for these services. This inequity undermines both patient access and the financial sustainability of naturopathic primary care.

Currently, insurance companies systematically reimburse NDs at significantly lower rates, despite our comprehensive medical training and full-scope primary care practice in Oregon. This disparity not only undervalues the care we provide but also limits patient choice, disproportionately affects small and independent clinics, and creates unnecessary barriers to holistic, patient-centered medicine.

HB 3439 is a crucial step toward **fair compensation and healthcare equity**. By ensuring that insurers reimburse NDs at rates comparable to other primary care providers for the same services, we can:

- **Improve patient access** to diverse healthcare options.
- **Support small practices** and independent providers who serve underserved communities.
- **Encourage a more integrative and cost-effective approach** to healthcare by allowing patients to seek care from their chosen providers without financial discrimination.

I urge you to support HB 3439 to ensure fairness in healthcare reimbursement and to uphold Oregon's commitment to patient-centered, accessible healthcare. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require further information or a firsthand perspective on the impact of reimbursement disparities.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Vickers, ND