

Submitter: Mark DeJohn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

On behalf of the Patient Advocates for Naturopathic Physicians and the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP), we strongly urge you to pass HB3439 out of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care. With 1,200 licensed Naturopathic Physicians (NDs) serving over 100,000 Oregonians annually, this legislation is critical to improving access to primary care services across the state.

HB3439 ensures that insurance companies provide fair and equitable reimbursement to NDs, aligning their compensation with that of other primary care providers. Currently, NDs are reimbursed at approximately half the rate of Physician Assistants (PAs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs), and Medical Doctors (MDs) for delivering the same services. Despite being well-regulated, licensed primary care providers, NDs face systemic underpayment, limiting patient access to their safe, effective, and integrative care.

The financial strain caused by inadequate reimbursement rates forces many NDs to either reduce staff, close their practices, or shift to cash-only models—ultimately restricting access for patients who cannot afford out-of-pocket care. This exacerbates Oregon’s existing primary care provider shortage, making the passage of HB3439 even more urgent.

Importantly, the fiscal impact of HB3439 is minimal—just \$3 million within the Oregon Health Authority’s biennial budget—yet the benefits for patient care and healthcare accessibility far outweigh this cost. Investing in primary care remains a legislative priority, and HB3439 directly supports this goal by expanding patient choice and strengthening the hundreds of small businesses providing naturopathic care statewide.

We respectfully ask for your support in advancing HB3439. Please vote “YES” at the upcoming hearing to ensure that all Oregonians have equitable access to the primary care providers of their choice.

Sincerely,
Mark DeJohn