

Submitter: Joni Zimmerman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3439

When I first saw this bill I got all excited because I thought it was expanding naturopath coverage to PERS retirees on Medicare. Then I realized it only had to do with PEBB coverage, which already covers naturopaths. I support it of course, because naturopaths should receive fair reimbursement for care. I would, however, like to urge the legislature to add naturopaths to the list of providers that must be covered by health plans for PERS retirees. In my experience, MDs, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, all covered by the plans available for retirees, are basically just technicians interested in prescribing drugs which are often unnecessary, and referring one for surgery, which is also often unnecessary. Naturopaths, on the other hand, have a deep understanding of wellness, health, nutrition, and exercise and help a person enhance and improve their health without harmful side effects or botched surgeries. The quality of care is much higher and the care is far more comprehensive. I don't know if this bill could be amended to include PERS health plans, or if it would need to be a whole new bill, and I apologize if this is not the appropriate place to ask, but we would all be a lot better off if we could choose a naturopath as our primary care doctor. Thank you for your consideration.