

Testimony on HB 3439: Naturopath Pay Parity

March 4, 2025

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Anne Cooper, and I am the Oregon Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations at Cambia Health Solutions, which operates Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, which serves nearly one million Oregonians. In keeping with our values as a tax paying nonprofit, 89% of every premium dollar goes to pay our members' medical claims and expenses. We are writing to express concerns on HB 3439.

We credential our providers to ensure that our members have access to high quality, safe care with providers operating within the scope of their license. In this case of Naturopathic Physicians, the license type remains different from that of providers who hold a "medical doctor" license, which is reflective of the differing training requirements and experiences between the two licenses. HB 3439 would undermine our credentialing process and limit our ability to account for a provider's background, licensing, and qualifications in setting our reimbursement rates.

Further, in order for Oregon to achieve the stated goal of containing healthcare costs to 3.4% annual growth we are all going to have to make extraordinarily difficult decisions about cost growth and reimbursement rates. Every rate increase or payment mandate that increases costs - no matter how slight they appear - will drive us further from our state's cost containment objectives. We hope that value-based payment arrangements will create incentives to eliminate waste in the system, but it is going to be a herculean task to meet a 3.4% goal when over the past 13 years we have rarely been able to contain costs in the healthcare system below 6%. We urge your opposition of HB 3439.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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