

Dear Oregon Legislature,

I'm writing on behalf of my local Naturopathic Doctors at Sunshine Healthcare in Canby and also Sunnyside Collaborative.

Dr. Jaurez at Sunshine health in Canby goes out of her way to serve our community. As a midwife and a naturopathic doctor, she attended the post natal care of my twin girls this summer as a first time patient, offering to come to my house to do the standard midwifery infant care that a regular midwife client would have received.

Our case was unique because Dr. Jaurez wasn't even sure that our insurance would pay for her care (OHP), but she was willing to offer care anyhow and take the risk to see if she could get OHP to pay her via a roundabout way since their office has previously been denied as an OHP primary care office.

She did the entire 6 weeks of infant care for our twins on the basis of being a caring doctor and servant knowing she might not even get paid. Her office did figure out the work around to get OHP to pay them, but I share this story to highlight the care and service our particular naturopathic doctors offer.

They deserve to be paid the same as any other doctor or nurse practitioner.

Below is a letter I was given to add to my own testimony. I urge you to pass HB3439, so that our hard working NDs can be compensated fairly for their service.

The members of the Patient Advocates for Naturopathic Physicians and the Oregon Association of Naturopathic Physicians (OANP) urge you to pass HB3439 out of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care. With 1200 Licensed Naturopathic Physicians serving over 100,000 Oregonians each year, HB3439 will help improve delivery of primary care services in our state.

HB3439 requires that insurance companies pay naturopathic doctors (ND) fairly and on par with what other primary care providers are paid for providing the same services. Currently, NDs are reimbursed on average at half the rate of PAs, NPs, DOs and MDs. NDs are well-regulated and licensed as primary care providers. Thousands of Oregonians seek out the safe, effective and integrative care that NDs provide.

Every year, NDs are financially forced to either lay off staff and close their clinics or to move to a cash model, excluding those who are not affluent. This is diminishing Oregonians' access to safe and effective naturopathic care and we as a state should not be complicit in this. Oregon is currently experiencing a primary care provider shortage which will only be exacerbated if HB3439 does not advance.

HB3439 has a minuscule fiscal impact of 3 million dollars embedded in the OHA biennial budget, yet the profound positive impact on patient care for Oregonians far outweighs the cost. This allocation would go toward primary care, which has been a priority of this legislature. HB3439 will not only increase patients' ability to choose their doctors, but will also support the hundreds of small businesses across the state that provide naturopathic care.

Please vote "YES" on HB3439 at its upcoming hearing.

The Fan Family