

March 27, 2019

Senate Committee on Health Care
The Honorable Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

RE: Support for Senate Bill 887

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

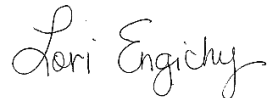
I am writing to urge your support of Senate Bill 887. I have experienced the benefits of acupuncture for reducing chronic pain due to chronic migraines and fibromyalgia. Acupuncture has also helped me to reduce my use of opiates for the pain.

I am grateful that my insurance benefit includes acupuncture. However, while trying to get treatment, I have encountered barriers to care due to prior authorization requirements. Given the time it takes to submit this prior authorization request and obtain approval from my insurer, I have had to miss regularly scheduled appointments that I need to keep my pain in check. I know that these treatments are helping my body to deal with the overall pain and chronic headaches, because when I miss appointments my pain is increased significantly until I can get another treatment.

SB 887 would help address this issue by allowing patients like me to more easily access their acupuncture benefit. SB 887 would allow me to receive acupuncture treatments in a timely manner consistent with the overall plan for management of my chronic pain issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Engichy".

Lori A Engichy
Acupuncture patient