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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 studied to be an acupuncturist because I understand the positive impact it can have on patients' wellbeing. Acupuncture is a relatively low-cost treatment that can be used for a variety of diagnoses, including pain, stress, and addiction. Especially now, when opioid abuse has become an epidemic in Oregon and the U.S., acupuncture is an evidence-based alternative that provides real relief to patients experiencing chronic pain. I have seen these success stories firsthand.

I have a client right now that had a hip replacement at 35 y.o, it dislocated at 40 y.o. and so he had a reduction, now he is waiting for surgery for a hip fracture. He has hip pain at 8-9/10, knee pain same side, shoulder pain for other reasons. I saw him once and then Evicore allowed me one more treatment. He has multiple conditions for which he takes Percocet every 8 hours. Why would a Third Party Administrator only give this man one more treatment? It feels like a waste of my time and my client's time for him to come in and wait, come in and wait. He could reasonably be seen twice a week for 3 weeks and then weekly for 6 more weeks to help keep him out of pain. He would be well prepared for surgery and be able to take less pain medication prior to and after surgery. He would also have less collateral damage on his other joints and on his liver as Chinese Medicine can help detox and support his liver and kidneys.

The cost of taking prescribed Percocet every 8 hours is at best \$441/week at the 2.5/325 mg dosage. The cost of getting acupuncture twice a week is less than half that cost at current reimbursement rates. And acupuncture does not destroy a person's liver and kidneys. It can benefit the whole body.

This client had some relief over the next few days after treatment. He didn't have to reach for the Percocet because his pain didn't spike. He wants to reduce the amount of Narcotics he takes and is looking for effective ways to do that. With just one treatment he experienced some relief. Imagine what he may experience with a series of acupuncture treatments if the insurance industry can see fit to grant him the benefits that he is already paying for.



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Prior authorization requirements are a burden for patients because it requires that they return for treatment after authorization has been granted. In some cases, patients never return. It also creates a burden for providers like me who must complete even more paperwork, time that could be spent with patients. Every new layer of administration cut into already narrow margins and threatens the existence of small businesses. SB 887 would help address this issue by allowing patients to use their acupuncture benefit as a low-cost treatment and prevent the need for costlier interventions.

I urge you to vote yes for this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sequoia Arayas, L.Ac.
AC 174197

<https://addictionresource.com/drugs/percocet/price/>

OXYCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN (MG/MG)	QUANTITY (PILLS)	PRICE
2.5MG/325MG	20	\$441.39
	100	\$1,513.13
5MG/325MG	500	\$7,344.13
	100	\$1,550.83
7.5MG/325MG		
10MG/325MG	100	\$2,134.24