

Dear Representative Salinas,

I am writing concerning proposed House Bill 2493.

I am an Oregonian, Ordained Minister, and a Certified Reiki Practitioner.

I can understand the reasons why this bill was proposed, but I consider it to be impractical, unlikely to achieve its desired ends, and will leave us with the paperwork without purpose.

The problems with HB2493 as I see it:

- The idea of a registry and professional accountability for a broader group of personal advisors than covered by existing law makes intuitive sense, but the scope of coverage for this proposal in sections 1a and 1b is too broad, leaving the distinction between religious lay counseling and professional spiritual advice covered by this law blurry, which is concerning to me as an Ordained Minister.
- While it is a great idea for all practitioners who might be mistaken for licensed psychologists or psychotherapists to tell that to their clients, that covers only a few of the indicated groups and does not require the rest of the provisions of this bill.
- The distinction between covered advice and social counseling is clear on paper but due to its broad nature will be exceedingly difficult to distinguish in practice and case law.
- The restriction on controlled substances may impinge on traditional religious practices of some Native American groups (e.g., peyote ritual) which are explicitly provided for under other law.
- Additionally, while this proposed law is designed to catch bad players, if this is intended to remain voluntary most of the folks who will violate its precepts and potentially harm the public will not register. If its voluntary nature is intended as a transitional step to mandatory registration and obligations under this law, it is applied to too broad a group of practitioners, and the scope is poorly defined.

In Summary:

1. The range of this HB 2493 is too broad, vague, and likely ineffective while creating new procedures and administrative burdens.
2. Will not protect the public.
3. Opens a Pandora's box when including spirituality and religion as part of who the term Alternative Practitioners is defined in a way that may encompass non-licensed spiritual advisors associated with churches and other houses of worship.

Sincerely,

Rev. Julie Svoboda, RMT

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