

Letter to the legislature

I recognize and applaud the Oregon legislature for working hard during these difficult times. Thank you for your service. I live in Wilsonville. I am a Healing Touch Certified Practitioner and Instructor. I have serious concerns about HB 2394. To ease the reading I have listed them as follows:

- No one on the committee that formed this bill asked an alternative healthcare practitioner for feedback on this bill as it was being written. We didn't know about it until it was too late and already written.
- There is no emergency concerning this bill.
- Continuous reference to mental health care: most of us don't do any form of mental health care work
- Definition of "Alternative well-being care" does not apply to most of the alternative health care professions. For example, an energy worker's goal is to bring balance to the human energy field. Mental health issues are not in the job description. We are not mental health care providers.
- With the exception of ethical conduct, few of the alternative modalities have enough in common to merit testing.
- Who writes the test? To have legislators write a test on a subject they know nothing about does not work.
- Who pays for the nationwide criminal records check?
- An individual who provides alternative well-being care is not required to apply for listing, or be listed, on the alternative practitioner registry, but is subject to fines if they do not voluntarily register themselves within two years of the passage of the bill.
- It is not in an alternative healthcare provider's job description to assess, diagnose, or treat a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder.
- This bill takes away the right of Oregonians to choose their own healthcare providers
- There is a difference between an alternative health care provider and an alternative well being provider
- The definition of alternative well-being provider is too vague. Care givers, certain types of ministries, and other professions fall under the given definition.
- Too many professions that have no relationship with each other have been lumped together into one category
- Alternative health care providers have no say as to who is to govern them.
- There is no provision to put alternative healthcare providers on the governing boards.
- Very few, if any, alternative healthcare practitioners can afford the luxury of employees.
- The passage of this bill would put many Oregon healthcare practitioners out of work during difficult times.
- Many alternative healthcare providers would go underground and cease to advertise their work except by quiet word of mouth
- There is no mention of how to track down alternative healthcare providers, some of whom do not own a computer or cell phone.
- With over 190 different alternative healthcare modalities and more being developed every day, keeping track of them would be both difficult and expensive.
- The bill displays no understanding of what the various alternative healthcare providers actually do.

I recommend killing the bill and the passage of a simple bill covering ethical conduct, with no registry, tests, or other governance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Linnie Thomas HTCI