

I am a lifelong recipient of alternative modalities. I am also a practitioner. I believe that this Bill is not conducive to the wellbeing of Oregonians. It puts a prohibitive time crush and punitive requirements on us and our clients. This would destroy many peoples livelihoods at a time when other sources of income are unavailable. It would also take away a source of complementary care to those who choose our services, again, at a time when people need help of all kinds. With such disastrously short notice to us, this hearing will not be a balanced presentation. It negatively impacts the ability of those who follow ancient spiritual paths, whether we are indigenous or not, born elsewhere, or native born, to exercise the freedom to practice our ceremonies and our faith, and to help others, and to teach these ways. It really is not worthy of the helping and healing professions.

Instead, the pandemic should be a time when we unite and encourage all people of goodwill to offer help to those who are suffering. In my case I was born elsewhere and follow a spiritual path. My commitment to those I serve in Portland, Oregon, my home over almost 4 decades, is based on a lifetime of study, training and practice. It is my livelihood and it is my life.

I am an elder. I help support my disabled family member. This Bill could cause extreme hardship and anguish. I entreat you to consider the Safe Harbor instead, I encourage you to consider the freedom of choice and wellbeing of those who depend on our services because of personal preference, philosophy, budget, or convenience,