

Dear Legislators:

I am writing in opposition to HB 2483 which would mandate that alternative medicine practitioners register with the state, and then have them regulated with more oversight. Based on the modalities in which I am certified, I believe it is a waste of state money and a duplication of efforts to go forward with those procedures. Alternative modalities are a big sprawling topic and would require many different licensures and regulations.

I am a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner. Some of the reasons I was drawn to Healing Touch are because of how it was and is structured.

- In order to obtain certification from HTP, one goes through 5 levels of classes, each diving more deeply into healing and quantum physics. This is not done over a weekend but typically over a period of years;

- One is mentored by a qualified practitioner through the final level of work to meet the standards of the program;

- There is a written test on completion of the application for certification;

- Practitioners must recertify every five years after completing a required number of CEUs;

- There are a code of ethics and a scope of practice that are discussed and encouraged from the beginning of level 1; and

- Healing Touch encourages practitioners to maintain liability insurance.

In other words, the Healing Touch Program works to promote best practices, protect their name, and provide practitioners with guidance in how to work solely on behalf of the client and do no harm. I also found many of the same issues encouraged when studying reflexology. Healing Touch is endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Association, the Canadian Holistic Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Credentialing Center for the Commission on Accreditation.

In my experience of 30 years of either using or practicing alternative medicine, I have heard of less than a handful of instances where those alternative modalities are abused. By and large, the people practicing alternative modalities do no harm and only want to help.

In closing, I strongly urge you to vote against HB 2483 and, as a more effect and economical alternative, please consider adding Oregon to the large and growing list of states which have enacted a Safe Harbor Exemption Law. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Respectfully yours,

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