

I am a licensed massage therapist in the state of Oregon, as well as an Advanced Eden Energy Medicine Practitioner. I have 35 years of professional experience in the field of alternative health care, and I can testify that nearly everyone who comes to me in pain has underlying spiritual and/or personal-growth issues that contribute to their suffering which they are working to solve. My role of practitioner (along with applying the therapeutic modalities that I use) is to listen, breathe and hold space with the client, and share my own reflections based on my personal experiences gained through spiritual practice and study. A person's physical healing cannot be separated from their spiritual or emotional healing, and there are many different modalities which can help an individual to find relief from their duress.

I'd like to submit testimony written by David Feinstein, the director of the Eden Method program which is the certifying body of my energy medicine training. What he says in this testimony speaks to my perspective exactly:

"I am the Executive Director of the Energy Medicine Institute, a 501(c)(3) corporation registered in Oregon. In association with our sister organizations, we have more than 1,600 Certified Practitioners who have completed a 2-Year Training program held in Phoenix, Arizona. They are serving thousands of clients worldwide. Our combined mailing list exceeds 180,000 interested individuals. As a representative of these organizations and their practitioners, I have been asked to strongly convey our informed opinion that HB 2493 is unnecessary and will harm rather than benefit the citizens of Oregon seeking assistance that enhances their "well-being."

The proposed law broadly encompasses hundreds of approaches for enhancing well-being. These range from practices that serve the functions religion once served more widely and extend to approaches that are governed by professional organizations with their own codes of conduct, ethical standards, and disciplinary procedures. No generic legislation is going to adequately address the variety of issues pertinent to all these approaches. HB 2493 will inhibit the services provided by this wide spectrum of practitioners while doing nothing effective for enhancing the quality of those services. It is a step in the wrong direction. We strongly urge the House to instead address the concerns raised by HB 2493 with legislation known as "Health Freedom Laws," as enacted in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island.

For instance, in California, practitioners offering well-being coaching or alternative health care services are allowed to provide these services after disclosing to potential clients, in writing, information such as that the practitioner is not a licensed physician; that the treatment is alternative or complementary to the healing arts services licensed by the state; that the services to be provided are not licensed by the state; the nature of the services to be provided; the theory of treatment upon which the services are based; and the practitioner's education, training, experience, and other qualifications regarding the services to be provided.

The citizens of Oregon can be trusted to make informed and responsible choices for their well-being within the context provided above. HB 2493 would appear to be an attempt by conventional practitioners to limit competition rather than to improve the quality of care."

I strongly urge the defeat of HB 2493.
Janie Chandler