

May 10, 2021

Dear Rep. Sanchez, Rep. Salines and members of the Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health,

I am surprised that House Bill 2493 has come forward in Oregon, authorizing a voluntary registry and consequent regulation of multiple unrelated healing practices, at an unprecedented time in history when our communities most need healing and the support of one another. I stand opposed to HB 2493 for the following reasons:

1. As written, the bill is designed to impose unnecessary sanctions on 'Alternative' and 'Well-being healthcare providers'. Many of these practitioners are people who have been trained and practice healing modalities as volunteers or lay practitioners.
2. The bill infers that Alternative and Well-being Healthcare is reckless and dangerous through the suggestion that regulation is necessary to protect those who are served, and further, in Section 18, is considered warranted of emergency status consideration upon passage of the bill. No research is cited in defense of these claims.
3. The language of the bill requests voluntary registration, without identifying the rules that will govern those who register. These, we are told, will be developed in the future by the *Health Licensing Office* or contracted individuals or groups. There is nothing to suggest that contractors will be found in Oregon, or that the composition of such teams will be representative of those regulated.
4. The bill authorizes regulation of multiple Well-being Healing modalities through a newly established *Health Licensing Office*.
  - a. Many of these healing modalities have become popular with the public, as stated in the bill, such as life coaching.
  - b. These Alternative well-being healing modalities, as written in Section 1 2Ab, would practice in relevance to a registered Alternative Health Care Provider. This requirement paves the way for establishment of a new and unwieldy structure of practice for all Alternative Well-being practitioners:
    - i. (2)(a) "Alternative well-being care" means:(A) Helping services that are relevant to the alternative therapy or care provided to an individual or group of individuals for the purpose of addressing personal growth or to alleviate emotional suffering; and  
(B) The application of techniques and intervention such as energy work, hypnotherapy, life coaching, philosophically based disciplines and spiritually based disciplines relevant to the particular approach of the registered alternative provider to support change in emotional, relationship or attitudinal conflicts or to modify behavior that interferes

with effective emotional, social, relationship, health, work or spiritual functioning of the individual or group of individuals to whom the alternative therapy or care is provided.

5. This bill establishes a new layer of bureaucracy and introduces at least one new position to be funded, Director, during an historical period of hardship in our State and Nation. The funding source for this department was not identified, and will need to be located somewhere within the current state budget.
6. The case for House Bill 2493 is not backed by a base of identified research and as such is indefensible.

Respectfully,

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