

Submitter: Thomas Busse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2627

This bill fails to address the core structural governance problem of the Oregon Medical Board: it licenses acupuncturists, but no acupuncturists sit on the board. Instead of adding two PA's, why not add an acupuncturist and a PA. I have sat through OMB meetings, and acupuncturists from up and down the state have complained about the OMB's discriminatory practices rooted in Western medical bias and racism. OMB members currently have a contemptuous disregard for the medical practice of acupuncture, which is firmly proven to be efficacious in controlled clinical studies. If the legislature is going to change the board's structure - adding a voice of a practitioner impacted by the boards actions would be better government. Also, an acupuncturist is likely to be more critical of the "standards of care" the OMB enforces - and the history of medicine is littered with harmful "standards of care."

As an alternative, the Legislature should consider either delicensing acupuncturists as a profession or moving them out of the discriminatory and prejudicial OMB to the Health Licensing Board.