



Senator Julie VanOrden
Chair
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Idaho State Capitol
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Madam Chair VanOrden and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Idaho Acupuncture Association (IAA), representing licensed acupuncturists in the state of Idaho. We urge you to support DOCKET NO. 24-1701-2501, which increases acupuncture licensing fees.

The Board of Acupuncture has historically been fully self-funded and solvent. All administrative costs, fees, and fines are paid by licensees, not by taxpayers. While no one is excited about a fee increase, we understand the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses needs to spread its costs across all Boards, including the Board of Acupuncture. We are ready and willing to pay our fair share of the increased costs.

In the previous meeting, questions were raised regarding the de-licensing of acupuncturists. Obviously, we strongly support maintaining licensure for the profession of acupuncture. Below is a list of reasons why licensing is important for the consumer and acupuncture providers.

Consumer Safety:

- o Licensure gives consumers confidence that providers are educated and trained
- o If someone is injured, a license provides a state entity for the consumer to make a complaint. In our case, this is the Board of Acupuncture
- o Discipline - The threat of discipline, including loss of license, helps ensure providers safely treat the public

Acupuncture Provider:

- o Allows acupuncturists to bill health insurance
- o Allows acupuncturists to acquire malpractice insurance
- o Allows acupuncturists to purchase needles under federal law

Without the ability to bill insurance, acquire malpractice insurance and purchase needles, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to stay in business.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our thoughts and concerns regarding the profession of acupuncture, and we strongly urge you to support DOCKET NO. 24-1701-2501. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Sincerely,

Callie Blackwood

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