

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you to ask for your support for the continued regulation and Registration of Acupuncture in the state of Michigan.

I currently receive Acupuncture from \_\_\_\_\_, Registered Acupuncturist/NCCAOM certified Acupuncturist in \_\_\_\_\_. As a consumer of Acupuncture, I would like to know that my Acupuncturist has met a minimum standard of training, qualification and competency. If the Michigan Acupuncture Registration Act is repealed, ANYONE could claim that they are qualified to practice Acupuncture. As a resident of Michigan, I deserve to be assured that my Acupuncturist measures up to a commonly accepted national standard for administering health care in general and Acupuncture care, specifically.

One year ago, Governor Snyder signed rules for Acupuncture Registration into law. This was a key piece of legislation to protect the public safety. Previously in Michigan, ANYONE could claim that they were qualified to administer Acupuncture. Since Acupuncturists insert needles into the body, often over internal organs, an untrained person administering acupuncture can cause potential organ puncture. The risks of Acupuncture are extremely low when performed by a qualified, competent, trained professional, which Acupuncture Registration helps to ensure through regulation. The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, a division of the National Institutes for Health, states:

*“Acupuncture is generally considered safe when performed by an **experienced practitioner** [emphasis added] using sterile needles. Relatively few complications from acupuncture have been reported. Serious adverse events related to acupuncture are rare, but include infections and punctured organs. Additionally, there are fewer adverse effects associated with acupuncture than with many standard drug treatments (such as anti-inflammatory medication and steroid injections) used to manage painful musculoskeletal conditions like fibromyalgia, myofascial pain, osteoarthritis, and tennis elbow.”<sup>1</sup>*

With the increased use of Acupuncture as a viable and effective medical therapy, it is vital that we keep closed this dangerous loophole and provide for minimum standards of competency within the Acupuncture health care profession. As a consumer of Acupuncture in Michigan, I deserve to know that my Acupuncturist has met nationally accepted standards of health care competency. In their publication "Acupuncture: Review and Analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials," the World Health Organization explains the crucial need for standards of competency in Acupuncture to ensure safety of Acupuncture treatments:

*“In **competent** hands, acupuncture is generally a safe procedure with few contraindications or complications. Its most commonly used form involves needle penetration of the skin and may be compared to a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. Nevertheless, there is always a potential risk, however slight, of transmitting infection from one patient to another (e.g. HIV or hepatitis) or of introducing pathogenic organisms. Safety in acupuncture therefore requires constant vigilance in maintaining high standards of cleanliness, sterilization and aseptic technique. There are, in addition, other risks which may not be foreseen or prevented but for which the acupuncturist must be prepared. These include: broken needles, untoward reactions, pain or discomfort, inadvertent injury to important organs and, of course, certain risks associated with the other forms of therapy classified under the heading of "acupuncture".*

*“Finally, **there are the risks due to inadequate training of the acupuncturist.** These include inappropriate selection of patients, errors of technique, and failure to recognize contraindications and complications, or to deal with emergencies when they arise.*

*“Generally speaking, **Acupuncture treatment is safe if it is performed properly by a well-trained practitioner.** Unlike many drugs, it is non-toxic, and adverse reactions are minimal. This is probably one of the chief reasons why Acupuncture is so popular in the treatment of chronic pain in many countries.”  
[emphasis added]<sup>2</sup>*

Michigan’s Acupuncture Registration Rules provide registration for individuals meeting minimum education and training standards in the practice of Acupuncture. These rules allow Acupuncturists meeting specific qualifications and competency standards to become registered, provide title protection for qualified Acupuncturists, and establish a disciplinary process, similar to that which currently applies to any impaired or incompetent health care provider within a statutorily regulated health profession.

The Michigan Acupuncture Registration Act ensures access to high quality Acupuncture care for the people of Michigan. Currently, Michigan has joined 44 other states that already have consumer protections in place, either by licensure or registration, to guard against the practice of Acupuncture by unscrupulous and unqualified practitioners. By defining and establishing regulation for the profession of Acupuncture, Michigan joins the 44 other states now being regulated.

I respectfully urge you to keep in place the rules for Michigan’s Acupuncture Registration and to maintain and safeguard the existence of the Michigan Board of Acupuncture. These are fundamental and necessary steps toward protecting the public health care safety of Acupuncture consumers in the state of Michigan. These actions also serve to keep Michigan in the mainstream of complementary and alternative medical health care in the United States.

Sincerely,

Signed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Footnotes:

1. NCCAM, and AHRQ. "Get the Facts: Acupuncture for Pain." *National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. National Institutes of Health, May 2009. Web. 7 Apr. 2012. <[http://nccam.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/D435\\_GTF.pdf](http://nccam.nih.gov/sites/nccam.nih.gov/files/D435_GTF.pdf)>.
2. "Acupuncture: Review and Analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials: 1. General Considerations: 1.4. Safety." Web. 30 Dec. 2011. <<http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Js4926e/3.4.html#Js4926e.3.4>>.