



American Association of Acupuncture
and Oriental Medicine
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Dear Senator Rader:

In the interest of advancing the profession to improve public health, particularly in regard to the immediacy of the opioid epidemic, and on behalf of the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM), we write to endorse the Oklahoma Acupuncture Practice Act. Formed in 1981 as the unifying force for the acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) profession in the United States (U.S.), the AAAOM is dedicated to promoting ethical practice and high educational and regulatory standards for the licensure of American acupuncturists.

This proposed law will protect the public and is expected to save lives. In parallel, this law will conserve legislature resources through the delegation of authority to an independent acupuncture board, and preserve a healthy competitive environment for individuals practicing within the profession as evidenced by the diversity of our national associations and agencies in support of this proposed law:

- National Certification Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- People's Organization of Community Acupuncture
- National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- National Acupuncture Detox Association
- Traditional Chinese Medicine Alumni Association
- American Alliance of Acupuncture
- American Society of Acupuncturists
- American Alliance for Professional Acupuncture Safety

The AAAOM recognizes an emerging national standard for programmatic accreditation and licensure qualifying examination for states regulating acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The AAAOM joins the U.S. Department of Education in recognizing Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) as the accreditor for AOM educational programs in the U.S. and endorses their academic standards and professional competencies set for the education of acupuncturists. Over 60 institutions throughout the country have achieved the standards of educational excellence by meeting ACAOM's accreditation requirements. All ACAOM-accredited institutions and programs are shaped by a rigorous peer review accreditation process. In this regard, the AAAOM endorses ACAOM's standards and policies.

The AAAOM supports the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine's (NCCAOM) nationally recognized examinations, which are accredited by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence's (ICE) National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA) as the measure of competence for licensure of acupuncturists in the U.S. The NCCAOM's national certification standards were established to protect the public from unsafe practitioners and, as a result, the organization must develop and administer reliable, valid, and legally defensible national examinations. Since 1984, NCCAOM has documented the educational eligibility of candidates and has continued to develop and administer examinations. NCCAOM Diplomates have passed the examinations and have demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for safe and effective practice.

Furthermore, the AAAOM Blue Ribbon Panel on Interprofessional Standards determined in 2013 that dry needling and any of its alternate designations, including intramuscular manual therapy, trigger point needling, functional dry needling, intramuscular stimulation, or any other method by which a needle is inserted to effect therapeutic change, is, by definition, the practice of acupuncture. Codified within the 2016 Kansas acupuncture practice law, this position is held by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Academy of Medical Acupuncture, and Harvard Medical School, to name a few.

Thank you for assisting with increasing access to non-pharmacological options that save lives and help to end the opioid epidemic in Oklahoma.

Respectfully,

Carlo Chapa, AAAOM president