



Iowa Health Freedom Coalition

The people of Iowa want access to all forms of healthcare—conventional medicine and the natural, holistic healing arts. Interest in wellness is increasing. People need ready access to knowledge and services that promote wellness. Such knowledge and services are available from a wide variety of providers of the natural, holistic healing arts. However, access to the natural, holistic healing arts is limited by current statutes and administrative rules, which restrict provision of healthcare to licensed practitioners of medical approaches to healthcare.

“The Iowa Access to Wellness Act” (IAWA) will...

- ✧ Affirm the sovereignty and right of the people to determine their own means to good health and wellbeing by removing the legal barriers to provision of the natural, holistic healing arts.
- ✧ Allow providers of the natural, holistic healing arts to offer their services openly.
- ✧ Return to the public domain those healing arts that do not present significant risk of harm to the public.
- ✧ Assure that the people of Iowa have access to any wellness services and information that they may desire.
- ✧ Require that unlicensed providers of the natural, holistic healing arts make specific disclosures to their clients, including an explanation of their services, their qualifications, that they are not licensed by the State of Iowa and that the State of Iowa does not certify their education and training.
- ✧ Set certain limitations on the scope of practice of unlicensed providers of healthcare.

Therefore, we call upon all Iowans to impress on their Senators and Representatives that they pass the Iowa Access to Wellness Act in this legislative session.

The Demand for Natural, Holistic Healthcare Services

Americans spend over \$27 billion a year on Complementary and Alternative Health Care services and over 42% of Americans are utilizing unconventional therapies. (JAMA Nov. 1998) It is estimated that over one million Iowans now use natural, holistic approaches to wellness.

The Problem

One of our most important rights as Americans is the right to access the healing arts services we judge best for ourselves. Unlike citizens of some other states, Iowans currently cannot exercise the right of self-determination in their pursuit of health and wellbeing. This is because current Iowa laws and administrative rules governing the health professions define the practice of healthcare so broadly that many skilled healing arts providers cannot practice without risk of prosecution for practicing without a license.

The Solution

The "Iowa Access to Wellness Act" seeks to follow the lead of Minnesota, California, Idaho, and Rhode Island in placing the natural healing arts back into the public domain — into the hands of the people. It thereby protects Iowans' freedom to select their healing arts providers and services and affirms Iowans' right to access information about the full range of wellness options. The IAWA safeguards the public by mandating certain prohibitions and disclosures. No additional government body will be created, therefore no additional costs will be incurred by the State. Enforcement of currently existing laws will provide recourse to individuals and county attorneys in the event of possible civil or criminal misconduct.