

BULLET POINTS ON REGISTRATION

Rationale for not requiring state registration of practitioners of the non-conventional, natural, holistic and culturally specific healing arts

NOTE: Registration means any requirement to sign up with the government before a person can do an act of healing. Registration would encompass practitioners of most natural, holistic, ethnic, indigenous and other alternative types of healing arts.

- Individuals want and need to take personal responsibility for promoting their wellness.
- Individuals need access to the full range of healing arts without regard to whether treatment options are generally accepted, researched or consistent with conventional scientific principles, and regardless of any practitioner's education, training, and experience.
- Healing is a right, not a privilege doled out by our state government. Only those forms of healing, such as medicine and surgery, that pose a significant risk of harm need be regulated by the state.
- Laws regulating healing arts practitioners directly impact the right of self-determination and should always be held to a constitutional "strict scrutiny" standard that includes a showing of "compelling state interest" and "least restrictive means of regulation".
- The natural, holistic, indigenous, ethnic and other alternative healing arts have been practiced and continue to be practiced without evidence that they generally cause an imminent and discernible risk of significant direct harm to the public, or that the practitioners themselves pose a threat to the safety of the public.
- Therefore, registration does not meet the constitutional threshold of a compelling state government interest.
- Registration would place providers of the natural, holistic healing arts under the purview of the Department of Public Health (DPH).
- The DPH, which functions in a climate of strict regulation, may be tempted or persuaded to impose on the registrants specific qualifications and restrictive requirements, or it might convert registration into exclusive professional licensing, shutting out many capable practitioners and unique approaches to healing.
- Consumers will lose access to healing arts practitioners who cannot meet requirements imposed by the Department of Public Health.
- Costs to consumers will increase because practitioners will pass on expenses to clients related to a registration requirement.
- It is very difficult to modify, stop, or overturn the rulemaking process of an agency.

For all these reasons, imposing mandatory registration on providers of the natural, holistic healing arts threatens the very purpose of the Iowa Access to Wellness Act, which is to give Iowans access to the full range of healing arts for the promotion of their wellbeing.

Created by the Iowa Health Freedom Coalition, 2008.

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