

Response to House Bill 2943
Opposed

To whom it may concern,

My name is Scarlett Lynsky. I am a native Oregonian, a doula, a childbirth educator, and a newly trained Reiki practitioner. I'm also a consumer who seeks out "alternative well-being care". I feel that this bill is ill-conceived and would be a complete waste of time to enact and enforce.

Usually when I do seek out alternative care it's *because* standardized, licensed care isn't working for me or I'm *looking for* something that is "outside of the box." I know that I'm taking a chance that this practitioner will not be a fit for me, but I'm also taking a chance that this practitioner's special something, unique to them, will lead to a breakthrough for me.

I cannot even imagine what it would look like to establish standards of practice (as outlined in Section 8f) for something like Energy Work (as mentioned in Section 1B). I can only see these standards watering down the effectiveness of what "alternative well-being care providers" can offer. This is a negative, not a plus.

I see that the idea is to somehow protect consumers from harm, but I can't see that this bill really does that. The punishment for a practitioner who behaved unprofessionally would be to remove them from the registry... but the registry is voluntary, so being off of the registry wouldn't seem to hinder them at all. The only reason I can see for imposing this bill now is if the ultimate goal is a mandatory registry and standards of practice for these many varying, intuitive, ways of helping people. That, I would also be completely opposed to.

Seeking out non-traditional, off-the-beaten-path help is a personal matter. It doesn't make sense for the State to attempt to regulate something so personal, so unique, and so difficult to quantify. The State very does not understand the nature of these businesses and therefore can have no idea how to set standards of conduct.

Consumers have other ways of protecting themselves including disputing credit card charges, or bringing a civil suit. It doesn't make sense for the State of Oregon to insert themselves into this industry.

Sincerely,
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