

Dear Legislators,

My name is Jamie Alascia, and I am an Energy Healer, Reiki Practitioner, Wellbeing Coach, and Yoga Instructor living and practicing in Beaverton, OR.

Like you, I'm very concerned about the welfare of Oregonians as well as the practices of alternative and commentary health care practices.

While I applaud the Oregon legislature for working hard during these difficult times, I have the following serious concerns about HB 2394:

1. The passage of this bill would put many Oregon wellbeing practitioners out of work during difficult times, and at a time when so many Oregonians rely on complementary methods of wellbeing because their doctors are stretched so thin from our national crisis.
2. A similar bill was introduced in 2017 and was tabled because there was a huge outcry against it — because we don't want or need more regulations and an oversight board.
3. The bill labels the current situation as an emergency and threat to public safety, but there has been no documentation that there has been a public safety threat.
4. Complementary and alternative healers don't practice medicine or mental health counseling and should not be regulated in the same way as medical and mental that counseling is regulated by professional boards. Most of us spend a great deal of time training initially and we also spend a lot of time in continuing education. We do not claim to offer any kind of mental or medical knowledge or health assessment that would be done by a licensed professional. That is why our care is called complementary and alternative.
5. It is not in an alternative healthcare provider's job description to assess, diagnose or treat a mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder. We acknowledge this and make sure our clients acknowledge this when seeking complementary care.
6. This bill takes away the right of Oregonians to choose their own wellbeing providers, and the ways in which they pursue their own wellbeing.
7. The definition of alternative well-being provider is too vague. Care givers, certain types of ministries, alternative and POC religious practices, and other professions fall under the given definition
8. Too many professions that have no relationship with each other have been lumped together into one category.
9. Alternative health care providers have no say as to who is to govern them in this scenario.
10. There is no provision to put alternative healthcare providers on the governing boards.
11. We don't want to face this every few years – and have a better approach that 11 other states use as their model of legislation. Its formal name is the Oregon Consumer Access and right to Practice Complementary and Alternative Health Care Act. (Working name: Safe Harbor Exemption for short) Many other states are introducing or preparing to introduce this legislation. It has guardrails that practitioners need to stay within and includes disclosure about what training and experience a practitioner has. If a practice violates these, then there is legal recourse with laws that are already in place.

Please consider the needs of Oregonians in this incredibly difficult time and do not deny the access to all the resources available to them.

Thank you,
Jamie Alascia
Energy Healer
Reiki Practitioner
Yoga Instructor
Wellbeing Coach