

I am a Reiki practitioner and instructor. I take my vocation seriously and operate with standards of conduct and ethical service. On the surface, a bill like this would probably be good for my business, but after careful review, I must oppose it as presented. HR2493 would have a chilling effect on many legitimate and valuable businesses, harming Oregon's economy while removing choices for consumers.

Those who brought this bill forward clearly sought to protect the citizens of Oregon and thousands of small businesses in our state. I appreciate that, but HR2493 is not ready for adoption. The bill lacks an adequate definition of alternative well-being care, a term not in the common vernacular but vital to the identification of potential participants in the proposed voluntary registry. Generally, I applaud any way to expand awareness of mandatory reporting requirements, and HR2493 would do that through education and exam. Unfortunately, the remaining educational components are left for rule-making. In fact, the details of almost all of the substantive portions of the legislation rely on rule-making. Rather than wait out a process they perceive as a black hole, many small businesses would step aside. Oregonians would lose jobs, health care alternatives, and complementary services. The Oregon Legislature should articulate policy to a reasonable extent. Delegating staff to work with such a large number of regulated activities is unfair to businesses that have come to know enough uncertainty over the past year.

In a typical legislative session I would expect a bill like this to be studied deeply, and after substantial examination, including major outreach to diverse constituencies, clarified and revised. I realize that other issues had to take priority this year, but far too much weight is reserved for predilections of the unelected.

If the Committee wants to move in this direction, a working group should be established with a broad spectrum of participants appointed by the Governor, including several individuals who are current practitioners of modalities likely to be voluntary registrants. The working group should commence with the intent behind this bill, and look at alternatives such as Safe Harbor acts, as adopted in several states. The working group could return next session with detailed recommendations.

I urge opposition to HR2493 as presented.