

Please understand the comments below only represent the field of reflexology. Reflexology, an integrative health practice, maps a reflection of the body predominately on the feet, hands and outer ears. It uses unique manual techniques to deliver pressure to neural pathways assisting the body to function optimally.

The following points in the proposed bill are of concern to the field of reflexology:

1. An Act Regulating alternative well-being care therapies. The use of the word "Alternative " mentioned 89 times in the bill is inappropriate. This implies practitioners of the various therapies work as a substitute to conventional medicine. The proper word is "complementary" (spelled with an e) as they work along with conventional medicine, not instead of, for the benefit of their clients.
2. Please explain how the proposed registry is to be voluntary.
3. How can the Board be versed enough in all therapies to made decision about any particular therapy? In fairness to all, the scope of practice, business and educational standards for each therapy must be determined by the individual profession and registered with the Board; none of these areas should be the domain of the Board.
4. The American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB) is the national independent examining body with a rigorous psychometrically valid exam to which those practicing reflexology professionally aspire to pass. It is used for oversight by the law in both Washington State and New Hampshire. The same could be utilized in Oregon as a prerequisite for reflexologists making an application to the registry, saving the state and registry time and money.

Please provide the data which demonstrates a need for licensing to protect the public. Reflexology clients do not disrobe. Reflexology also does not involve invasive techniques, pharmaceutical substances, nor is it to be used for diagnostic purposes. Therefore, there is little risk of harm to the public. In addition, according to studies by David Eisenberg M., et. al. 1993 & 1998, clients of complementary therapies are well educated with discretionary income. This in and of itself lends an element to public safety. The decision to seek complementary therapies is controlled by the client (self-referred) and well educated clients are more likely to know when to seek legal recourse and have adequate resources to pursue damages. Public recourse against unethical practitioners or services received may include:

1. Filing a complaint with local law enforcement and/or the District Attorney to investigate;
2. Filing a claim with the Better Business Bureau;
3. Filing a grievance with any membership association or national testing agency to which a practitioner belongs as a breach of the Code of Ethics; and
4. Suing in civil court.

For the above reasons the Committee is encouraged to amend the bill or send it back for a rewrite before it is passed. If there are further questions please contact me directly at my email. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

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