

I strongly oppose HB 2493. I am a Licensed Massage Therapist, practicing in Oregon for 15 years. While I understand the benefits of licensing and regulatory agencies in protecting the public in certain fields and practices, this bill appears to create a regulatory commission that serves unnecessary and vague purposes. There are already in existence professional organizations that set ethical standards of practice for whom this bill seems to target.

'Alternative' healing, by definition, is incredibly broad and it encompasses many modalities, many of which defy standardization. How does one quantify 'energy healing' and create a uniform standard of care?

This bill puts an undue burden on traditional healers and practitioners who have been practicing ethically for generations without the oversight of state regulatory agencies.

The wording of the bill seems purposefully vague. What is 'voluntary' and what happens to those who chose not to register? Who will this '3rd party' be that is in charge of managing the data base? What are the qualifications of the person who sets the guidelines?

These are just a few questions I have regarding this bill. Oregon is quickly becoming a state of bureaucratic nightmares. We currently rank as one of the worst states to do business in, why add to the continuing red tape? Our plate is overflowing with issues we can't seem to handle as is. So let's create another dysfunctional agency to add to the mix, requiring more fees and questionable oversight?

This is a poorly crafted, superfluous, and potentially harmful bill. We need to focus our attention on the issues that are a real crisis, which are many in this state. This is not one of them. I emphatically urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,
Lorca Wood