

Submitter: Wanda Meck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB408

I strongly oppose SB 408.

The Oregon Health Authority, a body comprised of bureaucrats rather than elected officials, should not have the ability to control the scope of practice of professional practitioners who have been licensed by duly appointed licensing boards. These people are not educated health professionals and should not be making decisions that could affect the ability of patients to choose how they care for their own bodies. Credentialed medical practitioners should be able to use their professional best judgement based on their education, reviews of scientific literature, collaboration with credentialed colleagues, and the unique health history of their individual patients. Patients are responsible to select appropriate practitioners based on their health needs. They should be able to choose from a wide variety of practitioners, including functional medicine and holistic health practitioners (naturopathy, homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic, osteopathy, etc.).

Research shows that more Americans are seeking alternative or functional medicine remedies for their health issues than ever before. Conventional medicine is not meeting their needs. Many of these practitioners have studied conventional medicine and continued their education into nutrition, homeopathy, herbal medicine, bodywork, etc. They are more highly educated than the average doctor who only knows how to treat with drugs. Bureaucrats who know nothing about these modalities should not be making decisions that will affect or limit the patient's ability to choose medical practitioners.

I strongly oppose any legislation such as SB 408 that would limit patient medical choices and put control over medical care in the hands of bureaucrats. There is no need for this additional level of bureaucracy and control.