

Submitter: Amelia Barton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB408

Dear Senator Patterson and Senate Health Committee Members,

As a long time Oregonian, mother of 2, and person who has benefited greatly from naturopathic therapies and medicine,

I ask you to Vote NO on SB408; and not move the bill forward.

In addition, It is extremely troubling that the public voice was not heard in full at the hearing on 3/27. Myself and many people signed up to oppose the bill (only one signed up in favor), the committee only gave the bill less than 16 of its 90 minute session.

Interfering with the democratic system by not allowing us time to speak is unacceptable. This bill needs to be ended.

SB 408 puts the OHA (Oregon Health Authority) above all health care provider licensing boards in Oregon. The OHA is comprised of unelected bureaucrats with no true accountability to the Oregon population. They should not have supreme control of the professional scope of practitioners (and subsequently our ability to choose how we care for our bodies). In addition, OHA is too prone to manipulation by wealthy influencers and companies. As such, the OHA should absolutely not be mandating/or placing limitations on the medical scope of medical providers in the state. They cannot have the knowledge of individual patient's need over trained healthcare providers.

The OHA should in no way determine the scope of practice for medical providers. Doctors and medical providers are trained for many years to practice medicine in their field, which means they use all of the tools in their toolbox to provide the best individualized care for their patients. There is not one single medical solution that works on everyone. Mandated or one-size-fits policies have no place in medicine. Patients have the rights to a second and third (or more) opinions for their treatments; and this bill threatens that common and necessary practice; as it opens the door for one-size-fits all medical treatments; and worse yet, limiting certain medical practices in the state.

Diversity of medical treatments, options, and providers; and inclusion of those who seek and provide those treatments should be supported by Democrats; and not SB408 which goes against those values.

This contents of this bill, and the handling of this bill not allowing full testimony by the public is a dangerous move into Authoritarianism.

SB 408 is extremely dangerous to health freedom, bodily autonomy, and to the democratic process.

Thank you,  
Amelia F. Barton