

Dear Honorable <Rep Full Name>:

Florida Acupuncture physicians and Doctors of Oriental Medicine have been licensed as primary health care providers of acupuncture and oriental medicine dating back the 1980's. The professional title, "Acupuncture Physician," like Chiropractic physician and Medical physician, is self-explanatory, and poses no cogent or well-articulated consumer threat. The Acupuncture physician professional title has been codified and used by Florida Acupuncturists for decades.

By excluding Acupuncture physicians, HB 583 has a specific and direct negative impact on a small but important sector of Florida's licensed healthcare practitioners, represented by 75% college educated women (99% master's degree, 35% doctoral degree)<sup>1</sup>, who are small business owners/employers earning about \$78,000 a year.

1. <https://datausa.io/profile/cip/acupuncture-oriental-medicine>

The economy and healthcare business environment are already extremely challenging for small businesses and independent health care providers. Peeling away Acupuncture physicians' titles and targeting, by exclusion, a health care sector, which is comprised predominately of minority small business owners, who are juggling work and family priorities, absent a specific justification or evidence of wrongdoing, is more than unjust. It's arbitrary, irrational, and wrong.

Acupuncture physicians respect the rule of law; and they agree that legislators and regulators have important roles in protecting the public from unscrupulous actors who defraud Floridians. The Acupuncture profession would like to stand in support of the protections contemplated in HB 583, but the sponsor's present unwillingness to recognize the existence and permitted use of the title Acupuncture physician makes this impossible.

A simple exclusion, that provides comparable protections afforded to our Chiropractic and Optometric physician colleagues is needed to fairly implement HB 583.

Without inclusion of our professional title, Acupuncture physicians cannot and will not support HB 583, we ask that you recognize the 2,700 licensed Acupuncture physicians committed to serving the healthcare needs of their communities while trying to keep their businesses afloat. We ask that you consider their patients, employees, and families **with your, No Vote on HB 583 until Acupuncturists are included.**

Respectfully,