Dear The Honorable Rep

I am wri4ng today about HB 583. As an acupuncture student preparing for my licensure and a future small business owner in Florida, I am deeply concerned that this bill restricts using the words “physician” and “doctor” in healthcare 4tles, business names, adver4sing.

**Florida’s Acupuncture Prac3ce Act (F.S. 457) dates back to the 1980’s.** It was last updated in 1998. The deﬁni4ons, protec4ons and prohibi4ons provided under the Act have remained unchanged largely because, it was well conceived and con4nues to protect the public’s interests. **Over the last 40 years, Florida has licensed roughly 4,500 Acupuncturists who use or have used the professional 3tles Acupuncture Physician (AP) and/or Doctor of Oriental Medicine (DOM).** This has been an accepted prac4ce da4ng back to the establishment of this State’s Acupuncture profession.

**Including Licensed Acupuncturists in HB 583 has no eﬀect on strengthening public protec3ons.** Fraudulent ac4vi4es and decep4ve adver4sing prac4ces are already illegal in Florida and prosecuted or disciplined under exis4ng statutes. **HB 583 will only accomplish crea3ng greater obstacles and expenses for some small independent business owners**, who also happen to be health care p

Please consider talking with Rep. Ralph Massullo, MD (Sponsor: HB 583) and ask that he include acupuncturists in his bill. Their titles and degrees are hard earned in college like everyone else. They should not be singled out or left behind in a way that is harmful when others are given exemptions or amendments to keep from damaging their businesses and reputations.

I ask that you vote NO if acupuncturists are not added to the bill. Respectfully,

Student Name School Name

Class of #### (year)

Respecaully,