

Dear The Honorable Rep _____

I am writing 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 titles, business names, advertising.

Florida’s Acupuncture Practice Act (F.S. 457) dates back to the 1980’s. It was last updated in 1998. The definitions, protections and prohibitions provided under the Act have remained unchanged largely because, it was well conceived and continues 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 titles Acupuncture Physician (AP) and/or Doctor of Oriental Medicine (DOM).** This has been an accepted practice dating back to the establishment of this State’s Acupuncture profession.

Including Licensed Acupuncturists in HB 583 has no effect on strengthening public protections. Fraudulent activities and deceptive advertising practices are already illegal in Florida and prosecuted or disciplined under existing statutes. **HB 583 will only accomplish creating 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)

Respectfully,