

Submitted on Fri, 03/04/2022 - 15:12

Application ID: 58011

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 88, Working for Workers Act, 2022**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

Add your information

Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

Ms Heidi Kang

Paste submission

TCM is strictly regulated in Ontario now. In unskilled hands, acupuncture can cause life-threatening injuries like pneumothorax and even death. The introducing of TCM Act 2006 was definitely on the right track to keep TCM safe and public safe.

I would request that you take a serious consideration and remove section 5 from Bill 88, 2022 for the goodness and wellbeing of all ontarian. Please find attached letter and petition for more detailed expression on this matter.

Would you like to add any other information?

Regulated Health Professions

Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology ,Chiropractic and Podiatry , Chiropractic, Dental Hygiene, Massage Therapy, Opticianry, Optometry, Pharmacy,mPhysiotherapy, Psycholo

Mar,02.2022

Dear ,Sir/Madam

I'm a resident in Ontario. I heard that the provincial government has a plan to “wind down the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of Ontario.”

With regards to the first reading of **the Working for Workers Act, 2022 – Schedule 5 of Bill 88**, the proposed de-regulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture - I and other residents are reacting to such an irresponsible and ill-conceived proposal with genuine astonishment, utter dismay and complete disappointment.

I am compelled to communicate our vehement opposition to the de-regulation of Ontario's Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) health care industry and bring to your attention this most important matter for your immediate review and reconsideration.

As you know, TCM practitioners and acupuncturists are members of honourable professions that require intensive training of at least 3-4 years. Practitioners must be thoroughly trained and highly skilled to perform acupuncture and to write TCM formulas to avoid potential risks to patients.

Careless acupuncture and wrongful diagnosis can easily lead to pneumothorax, central nervous system damage, peripheral nerve damage, paralysis, allergy, poisoning, internal organ injury, kidney and liver failure, etc. Failure to perform the clean needle technique while inserting needles can also result in serious bacterial and viral infections like HIV, hepatitis and MRSA.

Careful regulation is a must to protect public safety and to maintain public confidence in the fields of acupuncture and TCM, not only in theory, but in practice.

Needless to say, acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine are extremely effective alternative medicine methods available to the public when they seek to treat a variety and volume of diseases, especially in the areas of pain management, skin disorders, fertility issues, cancer care, post-stroke and post-accident recovery, and auto-immune diseases, just to name a few.

A huge portion of Ontarians have made an educated decision to rely upon acupuncture and Chinese medicine. The quality of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists' care must be constantly monitored and ensured. The public needs to choose well-trained, regulated practitioners who have proven their competency through board exams, peer assessments and annual professional development.

Before the establishment of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO), there was no standard of practice; no quality assurance policies; no advertising and record keeping guidelines; no board exams to assess practitioners' knowledge, skill and judgment; and no personnel to check practitioners' credentials and educational background.

Prior to the inception of CTCMPAO, the TCM and acupuncture community was a mixture of fake practitioners who called themselves "doctors" without consequence; insurance fraudsters who abused patients' health benefits without any government oversight; under-skilled practitioners who had the potential to damage patients' health and defame the reputation and effectiveness of acupuncture and TCM because they were left unchecked and unaccountable to any government regulatory body.

Skilled acupuncture and TCM practitioners are proud of their credentials and cannot risk having their qualifications and value to the public undermined or made suspect by such extraordinarily unwarranted deregulation that your government has now proposed.

Before the acupuncture and TCM industry was regulated, patients had nowhere to turn to file a complaint or report concerns. Non-regulated practitioners who caused adverse reactions in patients operated freely without discipline. Patients had little to no recourse when problems arose.

Over the past 9 years, the CTCMPAO has worked exceptionally hard to change the once chaotic situation by addressing complaints, listening to honest feedback from patients and practitioners, and by expecting acupuncture and TCM practitioners to be qualified and accountable to uphold its impeccable professional standards.

The hundreds of thousands of people in Ontario who rely upon TCM and acupuncture will be at risk of unscrupulous and even dangerously unregulated practitioners. Most importantly, safe

delivery of acupuncture and TCM treatments could not be assured without the presence of an impartial and robust mechanism for government oversight. Deregulation of TCM practitioners and acupuncturists is a prescription for disaster.

It is also important to point out, that out of the 29 regulated healthcare professions in Ontario, TCM practitioners and acupuncturists are the only ones targeted in this new Act. Why?

Thank you very much for your time and attention! I eagerly await your reply.

Yours sincerely