

The Province of Ontario is working on passing legislation known as the Working for Workers Act, or Bill 88. There are many things in this bill that can be seen as positive, but one part of it, in particular, is of personal concern to me.

Section 5 of this bill seeks to abolish the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario. This would leave any practitioner who practices Chinese Medicine, or TCM Acupuncture without a regulatory body.

This move to de-regulate acupuncture is a troubling one. This would ultimately mean that acupuncture could be practiced by anyone, licensed by another body (i.e. Physiotherapy) or not. I feel that this undermines the integrity of acupuncture, diminishes the education of those practitioners who took years to learn their craft, and spent hours sitting for board exams to become licensed.

From a financial standpoint, this move to deregulate acupuncture could result in it being dropped as a covered paramedical service under the extended benefits companies that cover it when performed by a registered acupuncturist.

Colleges exist to ensure public safety, and abolishing this college could directly impact patient care across the province.

I am voicing my concern to you about the deregulation of Acupuncture in the Province of Ontario and implore you not to pass this Bill.