

Dear sir/Madame,

We are respectfully bringing to your attention the appalling matter that was released on Feb.28 in the first reading of Bill 88 - Schedule 5 of the Working for Workers Act, 2022, which proposed deregulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture.

Bill 88 - Schedule 5 ignores the fact that **Traditional Chinese Medicine is one of high-standard health professions which is being strictly regulated in countries** like USA, German, England and other provinces like BC and Alberta and needs to continuously be strictly regulated in Ontario too.

For thousands of years **acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine have been highly effective alternative medicine methods** that the public seek to treat a ton of diseases, especially in the areas of pain management, skin disorders, fertilities issues, post-stroke and post-accident recovery, auto-immune diseases, etc. Every day, thousands of Ontarians are receiving TCM treatments. A single acupuncture treatment can save a patient with an acute lumbar sprain from pain; a period of TCM treatments can get a stroke patient out of a wheelchair.

However, **TCM can treat, but it can kill too.** Mistakes with the depth and angles when needling are likely to damage internal organs and even causing life-threatening situation; Herbs may have opposite effects on patients without deep understanding of TCM, not to mention the interaction between traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine. There have been cases of pneumothorax caused by acupuncture going to the emergency room for treatment. Even a well-trained licensed acupuncturist can make mistakes and cause harm to the patient, what if acupuncture and TCM are deregulated? **Careful regulation is a MUST to protect public safety.**

Bill 88 - Schedule 5 proposes to reduce the barriers in the provision of TCM while ensuring consumer protection in the delivery of TCM. **If there is no solid barrier when implementing TCM and acupuncture, if anybody can do medicine, what huge risk there would be!!!** How can we ensure the safety and health of the public? **What public health needs is not deregulation, but stricter supervision and management of traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture, because this is the best protection for the safety and health of the public.**

Please help us to stop the terrible mistake the provincial government may make, to allow more Ontarians to benefit from Chinese Medicine.

Please vote no to Bill 88 - Schedule 5.

Your time, investigation and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Vanessa Foteu R. AC, R. TCMP