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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

SUBJECT: STOP DE-REGULATE THE TCM ACT, BILL 88 Schedule 5

My name is Monica Bourque. I am a Registered Acupuncturist and Registered Massage Therapist in Ontario. I have been practicing Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in Ontario for close to two years and have treated more than 1000 visits a year.

TCM has been in use for thousands of years in China. It has a long history for healing people effectively. In my practice, when clients come to me in unbearable pain in all kinds of hours, Acupuncture is able to mitigate their chronic or acute pain and they could leave my clinic with a happy face.

If you were in in a chronic pain condition, you would understand how important their smiles were to a practitioner. Sometimes they wrote me e-mail infused with joy and gratefulness, just because they could finally have a good sleep through the night. It was bewildering to know how they could endure years of sleeplessness due to physical pain!

As a matter of fact, for years my clients had repeatedly asked me to study for Acupuncture. They told me they wanted to try it but they don't they don't really trust someone they don't know. Finally, three years ago, I decided to put my career as a RMT on hold and studied for Acupuncture for two-three years. During this period my income went down to 10-20 per cent of what I usually made. I had to drive 2 hours to Markham for the courses in snow and rain, risking my life on a daily basis. I got traffic tickets and my car got hit on the highway. I put in lots of hours to get my licensed certificate! Everyday I slept only two hours. I had made an immense effort (loss of sleep, loss of quality time with my husband and friends, loss of work and Ruskin mg my life) and willing to sacrifice a huge loss of income (I didn't get any money from OSAP) to obtain The Acupuncture Certificate. But all was worth it when I saw the happiness on my clients' face as I announced to them I got the certificate! It is a testament to my love for my clients and a passion for the therapeutic profession.

But one thing is more important, had Acupuncture not been regulated, my clients won't think it is a serious form of treatment, nor would they urge me to consider to study for it. The regulation galvanizes the authenticity of the mysterious eastern healing method, almost like inviting people to give it a try. It has enabled many suffering Ontarians to return to normal life and continue working for many of them are breadwinners of their families.

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There is no shortage of successful real-life stories that TCM complements Western medicine in serious cases and render Western medicine more effective to target illness. The introduction of TCM Act 2006 was to keep TCM safe for the public. So, I am very shocked to see the news to revoke the Act and move TCM to the public domain. I believe this is a big mistake as it may cause huge threat to public health. The proposed Bill will jeopardize both my livelihood as well as that of my clients. The Bill is very likely to render many of my clients out of job!

I hereby ask that you would take public health as well as the livelihoods patients and practitioners into serious consideration. Please remove Section 5 from Bill 88 of 2022 for the sake of all Ontarians. Attached please find a petition for more detailed expression on this matter.

Click onto this petition link:

https://www.change.org/p/stop-deregulating-acupuncture-and-chinese-medicine?recruiter=1061757040&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=share_petition&recruited_by_id=e871c3c0-6d81-11ea-848d-31d22c9df359&utm_content=fht-32533292-en-ca%3A2&fbclid=IwAR0vivLz2-PA2gXmal15FEJmDCLxh_3ws2qZAsmZA-pn7zBJM5mouU6Zzll