

**Appeal for the Removal of Schedule 5 from Bill 88 –
Working for Workers Act, 2022**

Date: March 6, 2022

Name: Debbie Yang

Address: 30 Denton Ave, Toronto, ON

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Social Policy

My name is Debbie and I am a second-year student at the Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine Academy in Toronto. I am writing to appeal for the removal of Schedule 5, the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Repeal Act, from Bill 88, Working for Workers Act 2022.

In spite of what Schedule 5 assumes, the de-regulation of TCM and acupuncture is not in the best interest of the general public. The dissolution of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO) is a serious public health risk as it allows untrained individuals to perform the controlled acts of performing acupuncture below the dermis and mucous membranes, and communicating a TCM diagnosis. In unskilled hands, acupuncture can cause life-threatening injuries like pneumothorax and even death.

Moreover, it is unprecedented for the Ontario government to deregulate a healthcare profession.

- This government and our Premier are well known for ensuring that good consultation processes are in place, yet there was no consultation.
- This is a mistake that this government can very quickly correct by removing schedule 5 of Bill 88.
- We believe that consultation **MUST** occur because of the potential impacts to practitioners, patients and the overall healthcare system.
- We believe the concerns aired by those who lobbied for deregulation of our profession can be addressed just as those same issues have been addressed in other jurisdictions like BC.

- A regulatory college protects the public and maintains standards and confidence in the profession.
- Safety of Ontarians and their access to medical care should be put first and deregulation of the profession will decrease safety by allowing unlicensed practice of medicine.
- Deregulation will force licensed providers out of business leaving thousands of patients without care.
- Deregulation will negatively impact the fifteen TCM and acupuncture educational institutions as well as hundreds of students and new graduates across the province.
- Deregulation is out of step with the rest of Canada, and beyond, all of which are moving towards regulation.

I implore you to make the right decision and support the removal of Schedule 5 from Bill 88 so that the rights of practitioners, patients, students, and the general public can be protected.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Debbie Yang