

Snow, Veronica

From: Thomas Nelson <georgi@georginelson.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 10:08 AM
To: HCIFS; Foley, Robert; Denk, Diane
Cc: Georgiana Nelson
Subject: LD 364

LD #364 / SP 104

A request for consideration to enact LD 364: **An Act To Establish the Right To Practice Complementary and Alternative Health Care Act**

This bill establishes the Right To Practice Complementary and Alternative Health Care Act. The bill provides that a person providing alternative or complementary health care services who is not licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32 may provide health care services as long as the person does not perform surgery, prescribe medications, drugs or devices that require a prescription, perform chiropractic manipulation or falsely state that the person is a licensed health care professional. The person providing services must disclose certain information to the person receiving services and must collect and retain a signed statement granting permission to provide services.

TO: Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I am writing in support of LD 364. As a professional certified Polarity Therapy practitioner I believe that alternative practitioners should be held to account under a common sense legislative framework. However, our practice and livelihood are increasingly subject to the threat of elimination by proposed aggressively restrictive legislation. LD 364 addresses both of these concerns and is therefore in the interest of both practitioners and the many people who currently benefit or could benefit from the provision of this service.

Why is it important to legislate to allow holistic healthcare providers/ practitioners to continue to provide their services?

Amassing evidence shows multiple benefits of holistic healthcare that complements traditional allopathic medicine, including:

- It can be profoundly effective in resolving or relieving physical and mental health issues.
- It costs a fraction of the amount of money allopathic medicine costs to administer.
- It provides patients with options, that are often closer to home and more

accessible.

- It can encourage people to take responsibility for their own health.
- Importantly, it has no known harmful side-effects.
- Eliminating or even significantly reducing holistic healthcare in Maine would be

to the huge detriment of its citizens.

Why LD 364 makes sense:

- **It protects consumer access to holistic healthcare.**
- **Increases transparency about how complementary and alternative practitioners work.**
- **Protects consumers of holistic healthcare through mandated disclosures and restrictions on what kind of work may be administered.**
- **Supports cottage industry and small business owners in the state of Maine.**
- **Builds bridges between conventional and complementary and alternative practitioners.**
- **Provides protection for practitioners continually threatened by vested-interest overly-restrictive legislation.**
- **Recognizes the diversity of distinct and separate holistic health modalities.**
- **Legislates without unnecessary cost, complication or bureaucracy.**

As a professionally certified Polarity Therapist, I have been trained and continue to adhere to certification and ethical standards. I have been in practice for 12 years.

The importance of LD 364 is that it allows for the legitimacy of certification standards while providing a legislative framework for accountability to the citizens of Maine.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support passage of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

Georgiana Nelson, CPT