

2/3/2016

Senate Public Health And Welfare Committee

RE: SUPPORT of SB363

Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in Support of SB363. My name is Doug Petrie, acupuncturist, restaurateur, and past president of the Kansas Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (KsAOM) and currently Legislative Chairman for the KsAOM. I have been practicing as an acupuncturist for 5 years and a restaurateur in Kansas since 1985. I have been self-employed for approximately the last 25 years. I support SB363 because it is good for Kansas. We want SB363 to provide career security for acupuncturists with proper training to practice what they love, but also succeed financially. Financial success of a licensed acupuncturist is good for the Kansas economy.

Currently there are many acupuncturists that live in cities on the border of Kansas but practice in surrounding states. The Kansas resident, for example, may have an Acupuncturist license in Missouri or Colorado and may practice in Missouri or Colorado. That means Kansas is not getting its fair share of income tax, payroll withholding tax, and sales tax of goods sold.

Many acupuncturists have the entrepreneurial spirit and would like to own their own office or share their office with other licensed practitioners. The fear of taking that step without licensing prevents many from taking that step. That means Kansas is losing out on property tax, as well as income tax and sales tax. Those that have taken that step of ownership live in fear that they may be shut down creating anxiety and a 'what next' mentality.

Many acupuncturists choose to practice in other states that have licensing. I attended Southwest Acupuncture College (SWAC) in Gunbarrel, Colorado. There were several of us from Kansas that attended and graduated from SWAC. I have other businesses and interests in Kansas and I knew I was coming back to Kansas. Colleagues of mine, who were younger and more mobile, chose not to move back to Kansas. With 45 other states that have licensed acupuncture there are many choices. The lack of licensing and independence meant these trained acupuncturists went to other states to live, buy houses, set up practices, and raise a family. Kansas could have had some of these people as well others that graduate from master of doctorate programs across our country. SB363 is good for the Kansas economy.

In speaking as someone and other acupuncturist who loves Kansas and wants to see Kansas and Kansans thrive, SB363 will keep talented individuals in Kansas practicing what they love, contributing to the Kansas economy, and allow families to be secure in their careers.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to speak before you today in Support of SB363, and ask that this committee pass SB363 out favorably so the people of Kansas can be assured that the acupuncture profession in Kansas is strong and credible. I will be more than happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,  
Doug Petrie  
Acupuncturist