



Legislation Update

November 2019

Greetings acupuncture colleagues!

There is much to do to move legislation forward in the upcoming session. The session starts in January, and we have some hard dates that need to stay on our radars. The first day of the session is January 14; the session lasts 37 days. February 6 is the last day to introduce individual bills and March 9 is the last day for the bill to get passed by both houses. We have a primary sponsor, Tamara St. John, a republican and long-time acupuncture advocate. We are set to visit with Tamara in the next weeks to set a game plan for the next steps leading us to the start of the session.

WE NEED ADDITIONAL SPONSORS in the house and senate, from both parties! If you have contacts with any representatives, now is the time to reach out. If someone is willing to draft a letter to send with a copy of our bill to all the Health and Human Services Committee members, WE NEED YOU. Other committees of interest are – Military and Veterans Affairs (the VA is a strong acupuncture ally both locally and nationally), Local Government, and Legislative Procedure. A full list of representatives, including the members of each committee can be found at sdlegislature.gov.

Our bill will begin its journey with the Legislative Resource Council for review and assessment. The LRC will issue a bill number and send it back to our sponsor. We are waiting to launch our email, phone and letter writing campaign until we actually have an official bill number to reference. However, please share with clients, patients, friends and allied colleagues that we will soon need them to show their support for our bill.

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The association has been gathering letters from national and local professional associations, educational facilities and other allied professionals to support 1) the language of the bill, and 2) the basic reasoning for legislation, which is public health and safety. We have been working with the NCCAOM and their legal team to ensure that our bill's language is specific enough to protect our profession, but not so lengthy and specific that it turns off legislators or pigeon-holes the profession.

We know that you are all busy and likely have family and holiday obligations, but this the moment we've been working toward. Now is the time to be involved. If you can spare an hour or a few a week, it would make all the difference! Please reach out if you are able to help.

Thank you and best wishes,

Colleen Ragan
President, SDAOMA

PS: Check out our gorgeous new website: www.sdaoma.org Please look it over for any errors or additions that need to be made.

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