

POINT PAPER ON HB 40

PURPOSE

To summarize why the citizens of Texas, and the Texas complementary and alternative health care community, strongly support passage of this bill.

SPECIFICS

- ***HB 40 offers huge potential health care cost savings to Texas.*** By increasing the visibility and accessibility of a segment of the Texas health care community that offers safe and effective preventive services, HB 40 opens the door for significant and lasting health care cost savings across the state. A study conducted by the Washington DC-based Lewin Group showed nationwide, five year savings of over \$24 billion with the large scale employment of just four nutrients. Many studies show that making the entire spectrum of alternative health care more widely available promises even greater savings. By enacting HB 40, Texas would be recognized as a national leader in health care reform.

- ***HB 40 empowers Texas consumers*** by providing a standardized information framework to enable them to make informed judgments about the vast range of complementary and alternative health care options available to them. Through mandatory disclosure of provider training, experience and practice modalities, it fills an urgent, currently unmet need to clearly outline both the consumer's rights and the responsibilities of the practitioners who provide care, *at no cost to the state of Texas.*

- ***HB 40 recognizes the safety of complementary and alternative modalities.*** This safety is convincingly demonstrated by the experience of other states with similar existing laws; by hard analytical data; and by the risk analysis already performed by the insurance industry - reflected in the significantly lower liability rates offered to complementary and alternative practitioners (as opposed to those offered licensed practitioners like physicians).

- ***HB 40 explicitly recognizes and respects the rights and privileges of licensed health care practitioners*** by delineating specifically prohibited acts which unlicensed practitioners may not perform. In so doing, it places unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioners on notice that violation of these prohibitions would subject them to the full range of existing legal penalties. *No new torts are created by this bill.*

RECOMMENDATION: PLEASE lend your unequivocal support to passage of HB 40 into law during the 2009 legislative session.

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