

What's the Problem?

As individuals, each of us has unique healing and wellness needs. While certain medical approaches benefit some people, often we need a natural, holistic, or alternative approach. For this reason all Washington State citizens should be guaranteed the widest possible range of health care approaches.



Sadly, this is not the case. In recent years many respected independent healers have been criminally charged by state regulatory agency, unfairly forced out of business, and compelled to leave the state to continue practicing their profession.

Then, to continue treatment with these healers, patients must travel to neighboring states. Practitioners who remain in Washington do so under the threat of criminal investigations. We are losing our consumer freedom of choice as these practitioners are compelled to leave.

This is happening even though an existing law states that "A health profession should be regulated ONLY when unregulated practice

Few choices are as personal and fundamental as how we choose to recover from illness and how we pursue wellness.

can clearly harm or endanger the...public, and the potential for...harm is easily recognizable and not remote or dependent upon tenuous argument... (RCW 18.120.010(2)(a))

Who are we talking about?

Independent practitioners provide a wide range of healing therapies, among them Reiki & other healing touch techniques, nutrition/lifestyle changes, mind/body practices, herbs, homeopathy, energy healing, hydrotherapists, traditional cultural healing, and various emerging technologies.

How does this affect you?

▶ All Washingtonians lose freedom of choice when alternative options are limited.

▶ We lose access to valuable healers when they are forced to leave the state, restrict or discontinue their practices.



▶ Consumers are hesitant, even fearful, to disclose alternative treatments they are receiving to their licensed primary care provider. This prevents integration of care for the patient.

Related website: www.leg.wa.gov/legislature

Health Freedom Washington

Vision-Mission: To advocate for the rights of Washingtonians as consumers to have freedom of choice and access to a wide range of health care practitioners and treatments that can help improve health; and for the rights of practitioners to supply these services.

What are we doing?

Our goal is to add a "safe harbor" exemption for independent health care practitioners to the fourteen exemptions already listed in RCW18.71.030.



Read about national and international health freedom efforts at: www.nationalhealthfreedom.org

Six states already have safe harbor exemption laws: CA, ID, LA, MN, OK, RI, while 19 – including us – are currently in the process.

Our proposed legislation will provide a safe status under the law for all independent health care practitioners, and allow them to safely and openly provide valuable health care services to Washington consumers.



This proposed law defines appropriate consumer safeguards in the form of prohibited conduct.

This law will not in any way affect the rights or scope of practice of any licensed practitioners, or take away any legal rights the consumer already has.



What can I do?

We are an all-volunteer grassroots advocacy organization and we WELCOME YOUR HELP!

Donate money. Detach this section. Make checks payable to *Health Freedom Washington*, and send to: P.O. Box 6555, Olympia WA 98507... OR donate online at www.healthfreedomwa.org. THANK YOU!!!

Your donation will allow us to advocate along with you to pass a safe harbor exemption bill preserving our Freedom of Choice in health care.

Donate In-Kind gifts of air miles, hotel rooms, printing costs.

Volunteer to help. Ask us what is needed!

Distribute Petition, brochures, HF Bill of Rights in your local area at libraries, Co-ops, health food stores, practitioners' offices, etc. *VERY IMPORTANT to get the word out!*

Set up informal presentations at libraries or clubs about the issue. Ask us about how to.

Be willing to call, send an email or letter, & meet with your state legislators to ask for their help in this very important issue. Find out who they are at: www.leg.wa.gov, or call 800.562.6000 or 360.786.7573. They want to hear from you!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My State Legislative District Number _____

FAQs

Q: I don't use alternative natural medicine. Why should I care?

A: You may want to sometime, and someone you know may already be. Approximately 70% of all U.S. citizens are – and paying out of pocket! Alternative or natural care are broad terms that include over 200 modalities or methods and tools for health treatment.

Q: What's wrong with using regular doctors?

A: Nothing! HFW believes our right to choose any type of health care should be protected from excess regulation.

Q: Why don't independent practitioners get licenses and register with the state?

A: Existing state law says they don't need to be regulated by the state unless unregulated practice can clearly cause harm. (RCW 18.120.010(2)(a))

Q: But how can I be protected from just anybody setting up practice?

A. Our proposed law includes restrictions, which effectively addresses that concern.



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Freedom Of Choice in health care!!!



"If the people let the government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as the souls who live under tyranny."

Thomas Jefferson

www.healthfreedomwa.org

Beware! — a day may come when we are forced into having very few choices.