



# NH Association for Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

*A Voice for Oriental Medicine in the Granite State*

February 12, 2009

Greetings,

The New Hampshire Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NHAAOM) is the state level professional organization of licensed acupuncturists. The NHAAOM is invested in improving the current legislation regarding acupuncture and Oriental medicine and has cause for concern regarding HB84, the Asian Bodywork Therapy (ABT) bill that is being sponsored by Representative Alida Millham.

Asian Bodywork Therapy is comprised of many different traditions which are commonly used as medical care in Asia. The list of traditions is extensive and includes some modalities of Oriental medicine. Oriental medicine is a 4,000 year old practice and licensed acupuncturists hold the highest level of education required in the field, with a minimum requirement of 2,625 hours of training. This includes, but is not limited to acupuncture, massage and Chinese herbal therapies.

The scope of practice for licensed acupuncturists, per New Hampshire Board of Acupuncture Licensing, Section 328-G:10 states that the scope shall include the allied techniques and modalities of Oriental medicine, both traditional and modern; including diagnostic procedures, electrical and magnetic stimulation, moxibustion and other forms of heat therapy, cupping and scraping techniques, dietary, nutritional, and herbal therapies, lifestyle counseling, *acupressure and massage*.

Licensed acupuncturists are specialists in providing the treatments and modalities of Oriental medicine and the NHAAOM would support HB84 with the addition of an amendment to HB84 that would bring ABT under the regulation of the New Hampshire Board of Acupuncture Licensing and further define the profession of ABT by amending Chapter 328-G to include such language. ABT has been regulated as a form of massage therapy for many years in New Hampshire and Asian bodywork therapists would be required to have 500 hours of training under HB84. The NHAAOM believes the proposed 500 hour training for Asian Bodywork Therapists is adequate.

It is the goal of the NHAAOM to work collaboratively with all health care professions to optimize quality and safety of health care in New Hampshire. The NHAAOM will fully support this bill with the above referenced amendments, and we ask for your support in making these amendments for the benefit of the healthcare consumers of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Fecteau, PhD, MAOM, OT/L  
President, New Hampshire Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine