

Independent health practitioners left unprotected (The Problem)

1. **Independent health care practitioners are being criminally charged.** The Definition of practice of medicine (RCW 18.71.011) is vague and open to misinterpretation. To quote the case DOH v. Pacific Health Center, December 2006, “The law that is being used to put complementary health practitioners out of business could allow the state to regulate many practices that the legislature could not have intended to regulate...”
2. We Washingtonians as **consumers are losing our freedom to choose our own health care** options. When alternative options become limited, our freedom to choose is restricted as well.
3. **Citizens losing access to independent practitioners.** Citizens who depend on independent practitioners and natural healing techniques are losing access to them as practitioners are forced out of business. Those desiring such services must travel to neighboring states to find them.
4. **Regulate only when there is a clear potential for harm to the public.** Washington RCW 18.120.010 (Purpose – Criteria) states that a health profession should be regulated by the state only when “(2)(a) Unregulated practice can clearly harm or endanger the health...of the public.” It seems this law is being overlooked.
5. **Restrictive health practice laws exclude many healing practices.** “Restrictive health practice laws in America, reflecting only (what has become) the conventional medical approach to health care, prohibit a multitude of other effective healing practices.”
www.nationalhealthfreedom.org
6. **Integration of care for the patient is challenging** because patients are hesitant, even fearful, to tell their licensed primary care provider about alternative treatments they are receiving and even trying themselves, not knowing how their practitioner will react when the climate for alternative care is so negative.
7. **Loss of business revenue to the state. Loss of health to the public.** As independent health practitioners are forced out of business or to neighboring states, loss of revenue to the state as well as the potential loss of health to the public is enormous.



Health Freedom Washington

Protecting health care choices

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