

The freedom to access the health care that individuals deem best for themselves is a fundamental right and an essential component of healing. Few actions are as intensely personal and uniquely individual as decisions made in the pursuit of wellness. The right to self determination is a guiding principle in our society.

**THE PROBLEM – Even when there is no cause for concern or harm to citizens, enforcement actions are taken against unregulated complementary and alternative health care providers. This is the result of flawed wording in existing Washington law, thereby limiting access to health care and the individual’s right to self determination.**

Existing State law (RCW18.120.010) acknowledges that there are many acts of healing taking place in Washington that are not regulated, and where there is no need for the State to require regulation of a health care practice. The only exception is when the unregulated practice can clearly harm or endanger citizens.

The challenge for government agencies, unregulated practitioners and consumers is the need for clarity on this ‘threshold of harm.’

**THE SOLUTION - The Alternative Health Care Safe Harbor Act takes the next step by providing specific guidelines to direct reasonable enforcement by the appropriate agencies with suitable measures that are beneficial to the people of Washington State.**

Eight states have enacted health freedom legislation. This has successfully expanded options and the availability of safe, non-invasive methods of healing without causing problems for the public or government.

**The Alternative Health Care Safe Harbor Act achieves the right balance of:**

- Protecting people’s freedoms and rights,
- Improving their health and safety,
- Reducing costs for taxpayers, practitioners and clients,
- Strengthening Washington’s economy, and
- Maintaining consumer protection

This bill protects access to innovative health care modalities as well as time honored healing traditions -- all of utmost importance to citizens in a free society.

**We ask that you support the Alternative Health Care Safe Harbor Act**

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