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Sarita Cox, ND, LAc
817 21st Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Sarita:

This letter is in regard to the Acupuncture situation in the State of Alabama. At this time the Chiropractic practice statutes cover acupuncture. It is required that Chiropractors that desire to practice acupuncture complete a 100-hour postgraduate course of study and a certifying examination. It is the unwritten request of the American Chiropractic Association, Council on Chiropractic Acupuncture (CCA) that each state moves toward an advanced 300-hour certification requirement for each Chiropractic physician that practices acupuncture. This level would be the same level suggested by the Academy of Medical Acupuncture now in the United States. Some states have increased requirements to 200 hours with plans to continue to increase to a 300 hour level of certification.

With this in mind, I think the Alabama Board of Chiropractic Examiners or the Alabama State Chiropractic Association (ASCA) would have little reason to oppose the AOMA pursuit of a law-governing Acupuncturist. The law would only strengthen the position of the practice of acupuncture in the state from a safety and insurance perspective.

As of the writing of this letter we have at least 25 illegal (uncertified) Acupuncturist practicing in the state with no continuing education requirement or supervision. In at least one case that I know of, a Chinese woman has practiced acupuncture in Mobile and Baldwin County with no certification or education in acupuncture for more than 10 years. She established an unregistered and false school of acupuncture and sold many illegal substances from her office. There were countless health (laws like sterilization of needles) conflicts. After each breach she would return to China and when the suit went away she would return to the other County (Mobile or Baldwin) and set up practice again.

This hurt the reputation of acupuncture and others that were legally practicing in Baldwin and Mobile County. Finally, last year some injury to a patient occurred and she again returned to China and has not returned as of the writing of this letter.

I am only one of many (10) DC's that practice acupuncture in Baldwin County and there may be just as many in Mobile County that are glad she is no longer here to tarnish reputations. If the state had an acupuncture law that would govern acupuncturist this would have never happened. This is why I am more than happy to work with the AOMA to be sure everything is done according to the other (44) states that have acupuncture laws.

I have no position with the Alabama Board of Chiropractic Examiners but I am willing to meet with them with you to work out any misunderstandings that may have developed through hear say. Please let me know when you establish a date and time for this meeting with the ABCE.

Thank you for allowing me to help with establishing the Acupuncture profession
in the proper manner in Alabama.

Yours in health,

John L. Stump, DC, PhD, EdD

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