

September, 2015

The Honorable ---
Ohio Senate
One Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator ---:

A broad based coalition of licensed health care professionals and state licensing boards in Ohio are in opposition to SB 194. This dangerous bill could negatively affect all Ohioans who seek the services of an unregulated healthcare provider. It is the wrong approach to eliminate the licensing process all other professionals must go through in order to ensure the adequacy of education and training necessary to meet basic standards of care and promote safety, whether or not the licensee practices alternative or complimentary health care.

SB 194 would permit unlicensed persons to provide alternative or complementary health care services with little, if any, formalized training or education and with an absence of diagnostic or assessment skills with which to base their decision to treat or provide follow up care and services. In addition, these persons would not have to abide by any established minimum standards of care in their practices as would current practitioners who practice under licensure laws designed to protect the public.

Ohio has had professional licensing for over 100 years and this protection is important to Ohioans who now have access to health care professionals who are accountable to their licensing board for the care they provide. If a person receives inappropriate care from a licensed provider, there is a place to turn for recourse. Under SB 194, if an Ohioan receives inappropriate care from an alternative healthcare provider, they will have no place to turn.

SB 194 includes disclaimer statements which would be ineffective in providing citizens "informed" consent and the bill provides inadequate jurisdiction for professional licensing boards for law enforcement to stop inappropriate and dangerous practice.

We believe there is a place for alternative and complementary care, but it should continue to be provided by a licensed health care professional who will be accountable to his or her professional board if the care is not provided in a safe manner.

The undersigned group of licensed healthcare providers and the boards that license them, urge you to oppose SB 194 and we offer our assistance to more fully explain our concerns if you have questions.

Oppose SB 194:

Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Ohio State Chiropractic Association
Ohio Optometric Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Ohio Board of Dietetics
Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
Ohio Occupational Therapy Association
American Massage Therapy Association – Ohio Chapter
Ohio Speech & Hearing Governmental Affairs Coalition
Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
Ohio Psychological Association
Ohio Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Ohio Counseling Association
Ohio Physical Therapy Association
Hearing Healthcare Alliance of Ohio
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons
State Board of Psychology
Ohio Dental Hygienist's Association