

Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chairman
House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



The Maryland
Acupuncture
Society, Inc.

February 4, 2020

**Re: HOUSE BILL 259 – HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – DIAGNOSTIC
EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS – DISCIPLINARY
ACTIONS – SUPPORT.**

Dear Chairman Pendergrass and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Maryland Acupuncture Society (“MAS”) as our support of House Bill 259 – The Patient’s Access to Integrative Healthcare Act. MAS represents nearly 500 licensed acupuncturists throughout the State of Maryland and we are in strong support of this bill.

House Bill 259 would prohibit a health occupations board from disciplining certain practitioners for the use of diagnostic evaluation or treatment of a patient that is integrative, complementary, alternative, or nonconventional. While acupuncture as a healthcare treatment has been around for thousands of years, it is still viewed as a complementary or nonconventional modality in the United States. We support other healthcare practitioners’ ability to explore and utilize non-traditional treatments as an alternative to western options, especially when those conventional treatments are not delivering positive results for the patient.

We also strongly believe in the patient’s right to choose the type of medical treatment that is best for him or her. This piece of legislation will allow patients to identify and understand all of their options in terms of medical treatment, both conventional and nonconventional. For the reasons stated above we **SUPPORT** HB 259 – The Patient’s Access to Integrative Healthcare Act. Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Denise Tyson
President
Maryland Acupuncture Society