

Hello,

My name is Barbara Palmer, CEO of Kingdom Kare, Inc, I Pastor Kingdom Celebration Center with my husband Apostle Antonio Palmer, and Board member for Leading Ladies of Integrity who is support of HB0982 Health Occupations - Faith-Based Counseling – Exemption

Almost 75% of Americans say that their approach to life is influenced by their spiritual beliefs. So, it makes sense that for many, their emotional issues can have a strong spiritual component, as well. For those whose lives are guided by religious principles, it is critical to their healing that their counselor appreciates their faith to understand their background, boundaries, and morals.

Faith-based organizations have always been on the frontlines touching people where they are. Faith-based organizations for centuries has met the basic needs of those in the community from food, shelter, and emotional well-being. Poverty has always been a mental health issues and the church is on the forefront of meeting those needs.

Imagine being an African American woman who has a strong faith and belief in her God and depends on her faith and her church to sustain her in trying times. Imagine that same women losing 5 family members in one year to covid and not knowing where else to turn but to her pastors and her church family. Knowing that in her culture black and brown people go to church not counseling for their needs.

Faith-based organizations want to cultivate relationships with clinicians in order to make sure that not only are our basic needs being met, but our spiritual and emotional as well.

Thanks