



University of Maryland Medical Center
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March 18, 2026

**Written Testimony in Opposition (UNFAV) of House Bill 1527
Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act
House Health Committee**

Dear Delegate Lauren Arian, Health Committee Chair Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

We are writing to oppose **House Bill 1527 Complementary and Alternative Health Care Practice Act** and respectfully urge the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on this bill. House Bill 1527 would authorize individuals to practice “complimentary or alternative healthcare” without obtaining a license, certification, or any other authorization under the Health Occupations Article. While the bill may be intended to expand consumer choice, it would **remove critical public health safeguards that the state of Maryland has established to protect patients from unsafe, unqualified, or deceptive health practices.**

Thousands of Marylanders seek Complementary and Alternative healthcare practitioners when they are unable to obtain diagnosis and treatments from western medicine practitioners or in addition to routine care. However, many alternative and complementary health practitioners are not licensed in the State of Maryland and currently have no regulatory oversight. Although House Bill 1527 requires that practitioners of complementary or alternative healthcare “must provide every client with specified written notice; obtain signed acknowledgement that the client has received notice; retain the acknowledgment for at least two years; and provide the client with a copy of the acknowledgement,” **this is not equivalent to the established informed consent process and creates a regulatory loophole allowing individuals to diagnosis and treat Marylanders without full knowledge of the benefits and risks of the procedures being performed.** Marylanders should have access to Complementary and Alternative healthcare that is expanded through responsible regulation—not by eliminating standards.

Healthcare services—even when described as complimentary or alternative—can carry serious risks and/or side-effects when performed by individuals seeking these services are often managing chronic pain, serious illness, or other vulnerable health conditions. Without clear educational standards and professional oversight, patients may be exposed to **misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment recommendations, unsafe practices, or dangerous delays in seeking evidence-based medical care.**

Maryland's Health Occupations licensing framework exists to ensure that individuals providing health services meet **minimum standards of education, competency, sanitation, ethical conduct, and patient safety**. These standards protect the public and provide a system of accountability when harm occurs. House Bill 1527 would effectively create a broad exception that allows individuals to diagnose and treat health conditions **without demonstrating any formal education, clinical training, or professional competency**.

Equally concerning is the **lack of consumer protection** that would result from this legislation. Under Maryland's current regulatory system, licensed professionals are subject to professional boards, standards of practice, and disciplinary review when misconduct or negligence occurs. If House Bill 1527 becomes law, individuals practicing under the "alternative health care" designation could operate **outside** of meaningful regulatory oversight, leaving Maryland residents with limited protections or recourse if harm occurs.

According to Center for Disease Control latest statistics, over 20,000 emergency departments visits in the US annually are attributed to dietary supplement adverse events; these commonly involve cardiovascular manifestations from weight loss or energy products in younger adults, micronutrient ingestions by unsupervised children, and swallowing problems, usually from micronutrients, in older adults. House Bill 1527 may contribute to the increase in patient harm and a rise in the cost burden for Maryland taxpayers due to more unregulated practitioners providing care. This demonstrates the need for policy and practices to regulate Complementary and Alternative Health Care.

For these reasons, and, in order to protect patient safety, maintain professional accountability, and preserve fair standards for Maryland's licensed healthcare workforce, we respectfully urge the Committee to **give House Bill 1527 an unfavorable report**.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to protecting the health and safety of Maryland residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Integrative Care Team & Acupuncture Services

University of Maryland Medical Center