

Sample Letter 1 / from An Acupuncturist

Date:

RE: TO CO-SPONSOR HR818

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (name):

As an acupuncture provider in your district, I urge you to cosponsor HR818, the Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act. The bill, sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey, would add an acupuncture benefit to Medicare and the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan.

Acupuncture has been commonly accepted for pain management and in other medical fields because of its effectiveness and safety as well as low cost. In 1997, the NIH issued a statement based on the consensus of a group of experts in the medical field who considered over 2300 trials on acupuncture. The consensus statement recognized acupuncture as a useful therapeutic intervention for a wide range of conditions including chronic pain, addiction, and respiratory and digestive ailments. In December 2004, the findings of the study funded by NCCAM and NIAMS – the longest and largest randomized, controlled phase III clinical trial of acupuncture ever conducted – indicate that acupuncture relieves pain and improves function in knee osteoarthritis.

The Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act would expand acupuncture services to Medicare's 42 million seniors and disabled persons and for the nine million federal employees and their dependents. Federal employees, seniors and the disabled should have the freedom to choose acupuncture.

Thanks for supporting HR818.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail