

Please Take your Action on U.S. Health Care Reform Bill

---- A letter to U.S. acupuncturists

Date: June 15, 2009

Dear acupuncture colleagues,

We are writing this letter to urge you to take the action on the petition to include acupuncture in U.S. Health Care Reform Bill. As you know, President Barack Obama has been promoting his health care reform plan which will affect the professional rights and benefits of all medical providers including our acupuncturists. If the new Federal health care plan includes acupuncture, it will greatly benefit patients and our acupuncturists, and we will be able to share the health care market with other medical providers fairly. Otherwise, acupuncturists will face more severe challenge to survive.

Recently, the leaders of the U.S. Senate Health Committee (Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator Christopher Dodd, and Senator Bernard Sanders) and Finance Committee (Senator Max Baucus and Senator Chuck Grassley) are working on legislative language for the U.S. Health Care Reform Bill. The bill will be finalized shortly and introduced into the U.S. Senate in September. We must try to convince those Senate committee leaders to consider acupuncture as a covered benefit in the Plan, while they are drafting the bill. We invite all acupuncturists, professional organizations, schools, our colleagues and friends to work with us for this legislative goal, and take the following action by end of July.

- 1) To write a Petition Letter (see attached sample) to President Obama and those senators who are drafting the bill, on behalf of your organization, school, or as an individual;
- 2) To share the information with your colleagues, classmates, students, and patients, and ask them to get involved in this effort; and
- 3) To find out any potential political or personal channels to contact the above key-persons or committees, and to deliver our petition letters directly to them.

We recognize that it is a challenge job to ask including acupuncture in national health care plan while the primary goal of the reform is to reduce the budget. However, we are confident on the power of acupuncture and should take the specific opportunity to speak out and let the legislators hear our voice. This action will also help the future effort on other acupuncture bills.

The enclosed documents include: (1) <<The sample letter for grassroots campaign for U.S. Health Care Reform Bill>>; (2) <<The contact information list of President Obama and above Senators>>; and (3) <<Questions & Answers of the grassroots campaign plan>>.

We are looking forward to working with all TCM/acupuncture organizations on this issue. Please feel free to contact us or visit our website at: www.ATCMS.org, and www.CAOMAUS.org, as well as www.acupunctureny.org

Sincerely,

Council of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Associations (CAOMA)
American TCM Society (ATCMS)
United Alliance of NYS Licensed Acupuncturists (UANYSLA)

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