



ASHEVILLE INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

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An update from Citizens for Health Care Access (CHCA)

Recently, members of CHCA worked with Senator Martin Nesbitt of Buncombe County and Susan Fisher from state house district 114 to create a bill to be presented in support of Integrative Medicine. The bill "Due Process to Protect Patient Choice" will be directed to tighten the Medical Practice Act and to make it more difficult to harass any physician without cause, including those practicing Integrative Medicine. The Senate Bill number is **S958-Disiplinary Proceedings/NC Medical Board**. The bill number for the NC House of Representatives will be assigned when it is introduced. (Our office will send an email with the bill number when it is assigned).

Legislators need to realize that there are voters back home concerned about freedom to choose our medical treatments. It is important that patients in as many counties as possible talk to their legislators. You can help with letters, phone calls, emails, or by joining a group of patients and physicians to meet your county delegation. Email Janis@ramquist.com to volunteer to join a group and enter "volunteer" in the subject line and include your county in the email.

Please do your part! Join CHCA at www.caroliniansforhealthcareaccess.org/signup.htm.

Contact ALL of your State senators and representatives for the General Assembly located at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/RandR07/Home.html>. Ask legislators to require due process for all physicians by the NC Medical Board and support "**Due Process to Protect Patient Choice**".

Talking Points: Use any of the following points you wish.

- Your personal health experience outlining the importance of your Integrative Healthcare choice and its effectiveness.
- Many patients have sought treatment by multiple physicians before finding an Integrative Medicine physician with successful treatments. Tell your experience.
- Discuss how much you and your medical insurance spent for prevailing treatments that didn't work before you found an Integrative Medicine physician.
- Research shows that a majority of prevailing conventional treatments are not scientifically proven to be effective. In 2008, the British Medical Association's Clinical Evidence assessment of prevailing treatments: only 36% beneficial; or likely beneficial; 64% are a trade-off between benefits and harm, unlikely to be beneficial, likely to be ineffective or harmful, or of unknown effectiveness.
- The National Health Institute continues to identify Integrative Medical treatments as effective; many of which the N.C. Medical Board has overlooked for more than 23 years.

General Information about Contacting Elected Officials:

- Refrain from giving your opinion on any other issues, such as healthcare reform.
- Do give concrete information; state facts about your experience.
- We will provide the bill number when it is introduced.
- If they ask a question you don't know, email Janis Ramquist at Janis@ramquist.com with the question and she will get back to the legislator.

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