ACUPUNCTURE NOW FOUNDATION

BETTER HEALTH THROUGH BETTER INFORMATION

Senator Bill Luzner
March 4, 2025,

Dear Chair Klein and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

The Acupuncture Now Foundation (ANF) is a U.S. based international non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public, healthcare providers and health policymakers about the practice of acupuncture. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our support of SF1946 for nonopioid and nonpharmacological pain management and ask for the consideration of adding acupuncture in an amendment to this bill as being specifically covered.

In the August 31, 2025 issue of the European Society of Medicine's Journal a comprehensive review of the evidence on acupuncture in pain management was published: Efficacy, Safety and Mechanisms of Acupuncture and Electroacupuncture for Pain: A Narrative Review. This review details several high-level reviews of acupuncture in pain management undertaken by such resources as the U.S. Veteran Affairs, the British Medical Journal as well as leading authorities published in top medical journals. A copy of this review of reviews is attached and a web address to the open access online article is here: https://esmed.org/MRA/mra/article/view/6871/99193549471

When the CDC was drafting opioid prescribing guidelines in response to the opioid crisis, it asked for public comments. Their draft guideline included 12 recommendations. The number one recommendation was that health care professionals (HCPs) should first look to prescribe non-drug therapies or non-opioid drugs to address patients' pain. The CDC received nearly 2 dozen comments from mainstream medical groups pointing out that the lack of insurance coverage would make following this recommendation difficult for their members to follow. Many stated in the starkest terms that an expansion of coverage for these therapies was badly needed.

The ANF applauds the impact of SF1946 in making such coverage possible. We believe adding an amendment to specially included acupuncture will help ensure this non-drug therapy with such a strong evidence base of effectiveness will not get side-lined by the insurance companies.

Thank you for your consideration,

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