

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98

Bill No. 111

Or Subject

(Name) Dr. J. CHUNG

(Street Address or Route Number) 780 Keport

(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI

(Representing)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98

Bill No. AB 111

Or Subject

(Name) MARLIN SCHNEIDER

(Street Address or Route Number) 3820 Southbrook Lane

(City & Zip Code) Wis. Rapids 54174

(Representing) 72nd Assembly Dist

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: Jan 29 1998

Bill No. AB 111

Or Subject Acupuncture

(Name) MARCIE BARDURANT

(Street Address or Route Number) 9998 Shay Baker

(City & Zip Code) Cross Plains Wis

(Representing) attorney

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: Jan. 29 1998

Bill No. HB 111

Subject: Acupuncture

Rep. Bob Siegelbauer (Name)

207 North (Street Address or Route Number)

Stark Center (City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1-29-98

Bill No. _____

Subject: Acupuncture

Glennda McIntire (Name)

331 Kluge Avenue (Street Address or Route Number)

Stark Center (City & Zip Code)

(Representing)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1-29-98

Bill No. AB 111

Subject: Acupuncture

Darlene Woldt (Name)

1202 Ellen (Street Address or Route Number)

Madison WI 53716 (City & Zip Code)

myself (Representing)

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms:
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1-29-98

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject

(Name) Jim Tenuta

(Street Address or Route Number) 16 n. Carroll St # 800

(City & Zip Code) Madison

(Representing) WT Assn. of Life & Health Insurers

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 29 JAN 1998

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject

(Name) CAROL WAKEFIELD

(Street Address or Route Number) 2025 RUTLEDGE ST

(City & Zip Code) MADISON WI 53704

(Representing) SELF - CONSUMER

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: January 29, 1998

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject

(Name) Michelle Tesko Boss

(Street Address or Route Number) 2849 Oregon Road

(City & Zip Code) Madison WI 53713

(Representing) Myself as consumer

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98
Bill No. AB 111
Or
Subject

(Name) Ron Kuehn

(Street Address or Route Number) 2 E. McKinley St. suite 600

(City & Zip Code) Madison 53703

1. WDI Assoc. of Life Underwriters
(Representing)
2. Independent Insurance Agents
3. Professional Insurance Agents

Speaking In favor:
Speaking against:
Registering In favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

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Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98
Bill No. 111
Or
Subject

(Name) Bill G. Smith

(Street Address or Route Number) One W. Pinckney Street 201

(City & Zip Code) Madison 53703

National Federation of Independent
(Representing) Business/ Wisconsin

Speaking In favor:
Speaking against:
Registering In favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98
Bill No. 111
Or
Subject

(Name) Bill G. Smith

(Street Address or Route Number) One W. Pinckney Street 201

(City & Zip Code) Madison 53703

Coalition for Cost Effective
(Representing) Health Care

Speaking In favor:
Speaking against:
Registering In favor:
Registering against:
Speaking for Information only:
Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject _____

(Name) DAV SCHWARTZ

(Street Address or Route Number) 2810 CROSSROADS DR, STE. 3100

(City & Zip Code) MADISON, WI 53718

(Representing) WI ASSOC. OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1-29-98

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject Advocature

(Name) Peter Kanner

(Street Address or Route Number) 2 E. M. BROWN Suite 701

(City & Zip Code) Madison WI 53703

(Representing) WI Association of AMOs

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly.

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Assembly Hearing Slip

(Please print plainly)

Date: 1/29/98

Bill No. AB 111

Of Subject _____

(Name) Janet Swandby

(Street Address or Route Number) 44 E. MIFFLIN St., #101

(City & Zip Code) Madison, WI 53703

(Representing) WI Retail Lumber Assn.

Speaking In favor:

Speaking against:

Registering In favor:

Registering against:

Speaking for Information only:

Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger promptly

Assembly Sergeant at Arms
Room 411 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

1007 8th Street
Marathon, WI 54448
March 30, 1998

AB 111 Committee Member
Dear Representative Clifford Otte:

I am writing to ask for your support in passing Bill AB 111! Please support and act on this bill. Acupuncture is medically necessary for many, many people including myself. After 15 years of chronic sinus problems, acupuncture has substantially helped and improved my chronic sinus disease. I have seen many traditional physicians, including different allergy specialists for the last 15 years. These physicians have prescribed many expensive prescription allergy medications and nasal sprays.

Then a friend highly recommended a local acupuncturist to me. I had everything to gain, for I couldn't always find relief from traditional medicine - acupuncture was worth trying. Acupuncture has healed, relieved, and substantially helped my chronic sinus condition. I can breathe easier without sinus infections several times a year, as in the past. My family practice physician has also determined acupuncture as necessary in relieving my chronic problem. Acupuncture has been a great alternative from taking expensive daily decongestants and nasal steroids!

Acupuncture has helped many other people in my area. I personally know a neighbor who has also found it medically necessary for her asthma, after years of traditional medicines did not help. Also, my mother's arthritis symptoms have subsided after several acupuncture treatments.

Please pass Bill AB 111. Acupuncture needs to be a medical choice for many Americans who need their chronic health conditions relieved when traditional methods are unable to heal, relieve and manage symptoms! Acupuncture is medically necessary!

My husband's health insurance has changed over to a PPO plan, and as of March 14th, has stopped paying for acupuncture. Humana Employers Health Insurance has determined acupuncture as not medically necessary and will deny claims. Acupuncture will no longer be considered a covered expense. I believe it should be. Acupuncture needs to be recognized as a medically necessary treatment by our health care insurers and all health organizations and plans. Please keep me informed on the progress of Bill AB111!

Thank you,


Kathy Koppa

AB 111

February 6, 1996

Mr. John Turcott, President
Dean Care HMO
P. O. Box 56099
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Turcott:

I have been a member of DeanCare HMO since its inception. I would like to share with you my medical story.

I have suffered with severe back and hip problems since 1970. Finally, in 1988, I was diagnosed with ankylosis spondylitis. Over the past 25 years, I have:

- been in a body cast for the pain
- seen 4 or 5 different chiropractors
- been hospitalized many, many times for pain
- endured EMGs and too many other tests to list here
- estimate I have taken 20-30 different types of anti-inflammatory and other pain medication, including high doses of prednisone
- missed days and weeks of work

In 1995, my back pain remained with me for weeks at a time and I was at a point of either resigning my job at Wisconsin Power & Light, go on a medical leave, or take steps to go on disability. At age 49, this is not what I want for the rest of my life. I immensely enjoy my job, am involved in several community groups, and am Director of a Madison area support group for bereaved parents. Helping other parents has helped me to move on with my own life since the death of my son 5 years ago.

Last October, two different doctors from Dean Care indicated they didn't think they could help me much more and suggested that I try seeing a acupuncturist. Although Dean Care would not cover this, my husband and I made the decision to have me seek the services of an acupuncturist. I saw Dr. J. B. Chung of the Acupuncture and Pain Clinic, 1 South Park Street, in October of 1995 and after 6 weeks of treatments, I absolutely could not believe the difference. He has helped me so much that it is really hard to describe. I continue to see him 1-2 times a month for maintenance and periodic flare-ups. It is expensive but well worth the money. He has not only changed my physical condition but my mental condition as well. Getting up in the morning with no back pain is an incredible feeling after years of pain. It is hard to thank a doctor who has changed my entire way of living.

I think of the many people in Madison who could benefit from acupuncture but cannot afford it. We all know that we need insurance but when the insurance companies do not pay for services that are necessary to maintain a quality of life, it is frustrating. Because of Dr. Chung's treatment, I will now see the other Dean Care doctors a lot less and free up some of their time for other patients. I encourage Dean Care and the other HMOs to cover acupuncture and pain clinic service. I am fortunate I earn enough money to afford this invaluable service and that I have a husband who supports my decision to try something different.

I know that chiropractors have not always been covered but that changed a few years ago. I now feel it is time for Dean Care HMO to consider the wonderful effects of acupuncture for the patients who would greatly benefit. I would be happy to discuss this with anyone at Dean Care or to make available my very long medical record to show what I have endured for the past 25 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darlene Woldt

Darlene Woldt
1202 Ellen Avenue
Madison, WI 53716

(608) 222-2125

From: Glenna Wetmore, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

RE: AB 111

Relating to requiring insurers to cover treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist if there is coverage for treatment of the condition by a physician.

I would like to encourage you to adopt AB 111. I believe that in making this decision you should consider two criteria:

- ▶ does acupuncture work as well as currently existing treatments
- ▶ does acupuncture cost the same or less than current treatments

My personal experience is with clinical depression. My psychiatrist described depression as "your brain chemicals being out of balance". He said that doctors don't know what causes it, they don't know how to cure it, and they don't have medication which will alleviate the symptoms so that you can function normally.

As with any medication, there are side effects. The side effects I experienced were dry mouth, joint and muscle pain, weight gain (33 pounds in 2 months !), and impairment of short-term memory. The doctor explained that the weight gain occurs because the medication depresses your cardio-vascular system.

Acupuncture provides the same relief of depression the medication provided but without side effects. My personal experience, then, is that acupuncture works better than medication because there are no side effects.

The second criterion to be considered is cost. I called Walgreens to get the current cost of the medication I was taking, I called Dean Clinic to get the current cost of the monthly doctor visit for medication management. My total month cost, if I were on medication today would be \$106.58 (see cost breakdown below).

I currently receive acupuncture treatment once a month at a cost of \$65.00.

The net result of using acupuncture rather than medication is that I am receiving effective treatment which is more satisfactory to me at a saving of \$41.58.

COST BREAKDOWN: This breakdown is from 1995.

10mg. parnate (90 pills) take 3 per day	\$35.69
25mg. amitriptyline (120 pills) take 4 per day	\$7.39
medication management (CPT Code 90862	\$63.50
Monthly Total.....	\$106.58

Cost of Acupuncture	\$65.00
Savings	\$41.58

RONALD R. SMITH
728 Tamarack Court
Verona, WI 53593-1689
608/848-2501 Fax: 608/848-2500

February 6, 1998

Representative Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Re: AB 111

Dear Chairperson Otte:

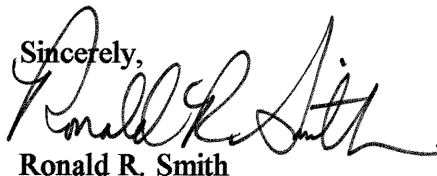
I am writing this letter in support of AB 111.

I have used acupuncture on three occasions: once for a chronic back pain for which I had previously used traditional medicine (UW Sports Medicine Clinic) and also chiropractic care, neither of which had provided any relief; once for a heal injury; and for injuries sustained in an auto accident.

For all of these, acupuncture provided pain relief and also assisted in speeding up the healing process.

Before using acupuncture (performed by an excellent practitioner, Dr. J. B. Chung of Madison), I had been skeptical. However, I have learned that this works, whereas other types of traditional medical techniques did not.

Sincerely,



Ronald R. Smith

Ronald R. Smith

February 4, 1998

Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Clifford Otte,

I am writing to ask for **your support** in getting **Bill AB 111** passed.

I wanted to let you know how important it is to **require** insurers to cover the diagnosis and **treatment** of a condition by a certified acupuncturist without a referral.


I myself am lucky enough not to have debilitating **allergies** or migraines, but my husband and sister are **not** so lucky. **My** husband has had inhalant and food allergies as long as I have know him (going on 30 years). We are 42 years old **and** until he **started** seeing the acupuncturist he would spend most of his spring, **summer**, and fall days suffering from allergies. In May of 1997 my husband began acupuncture treatments. As you may know 1997 was considered a very bad year for allergies. My husband **was** able to function with little or no symptoms from his allergies.

My sister suffers from horrible migraines. She has **seen** numerous doctors and none of the **conventional** therapies prescribed were effective. Three years ago she began acupuncture **treatments** which have reduced the occurrences of **these** painful headaches tremendously. Her insurance company will not cover the acupuncture treatments.

My mother-in-law has a failure in **her** lymph nodes, causing her legs and ankles to swell with severe **pain**. The **conventional** therapy has proved useless. The acupuncture treatments **provided** significant relief, it reduced the swelling **and** the pain. **Unfortunately** her insurance will not cover the only **treatment** which **works**. She lives on a fixed income and cannot afford to continue the treatments.

All of these symptoms are major **factors** on how **people** are able to function in the working world so **they** will not have to live off the state. Please support Bill AB111.

Thank you,


Terry Ann Stevens
215 W. Laflin Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53186-6011

February 9, 1998

Dear Mr. Otte:

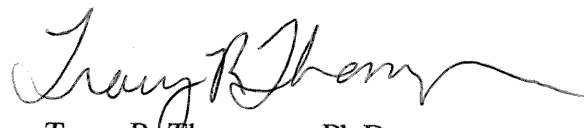
Hello. My name is Tracy Thompson. I am an Associate Professor at Edgewood College teaching primarily organic chemistry. I am writing to ask you to support the AB 111 bill which was introduced last Thursday (1/29/98). As you know, this bill would allow diagnosis and treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist within the scope of his or her certificate to be covered by health care plans and providers.

I have personal experience with the benefits of acupuncture treatment. A little less than a year ago, I started seeing Doctor J. B. Chung for chronic lower back pain and pain of the right SI joint. This pain had begun in the Spring of 1991, shortly after a bicycle accident. I saw numerous doctors from various areas of expertise including sports medicine, spine, neurology and rheumatology. I saw physical therapists and chiropractors as well. None of these medical professionals were able to help my chronic pain. My level of physical activity plummeted and the pain began to affect my ability to work. There was a time when I thought it would be like that forever.

My back pain has all but disappeared since I began to see Dr. Chung. I noticed a difference almost immediately and the daily occurrence of pain subsided after only six months. I am now able to do Tai Chi on a regular basis and can walk as much as two hours. I golf and ice skate on occasion, and on a nice summer day you will inevitably find me down at the park throwing the Frisbee around.

I have had over ten years of education studying chemistry, and while I know very little about the science behind acupuncture, I believe it is a sound form of medicine. If you look on the net you will find numerous articles in which doctors from traditional western medicine backgrounds openly admit that in cases of chronic pain western medicine has failed, or, perhaps I should say, has not yet succeeded. And yet, every one of us knows someone who has some sort of chronic pain. I have paid a lot of money out of pocket to see my condition dissolve. I would hope that others with chronic pain might reap the benefits of acupuncture without the financial burden. Please support this bill. And please, if you need any clarification of anything I have said here, feel free to call or e-mail me (257-4861 ext. 3299; thompson@edgewood.edu)

Sincerely,



Tracy R. Thompson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Edgewood College

February 11, 1998

TO: Clifford Otte, Chairperson

FROM: Bettie Stevens

SUBJECT: Bill AB 111

I am writing to ask for your favorable support for Bill AB 111.

For the last 20 years, I have endured a condition of pain and discomfort in my right leg with marked edema. The medical profession has attempted to correct or, at least, alleviate this condition during that time to no avail.

For 3 months in 1997, I travelled, twice each week, to Madison for acupuncture treatments. During this time, I saw a marked improvement in my leg and much of the discomfort relieved. I am a retired woman, 72 years young, with limited funds and can no longer afford the luxury of those promising treatments. Please consider those of us in need of such treatment, but unable have them.

Thank You for your consideration and all your good work.

Sincerely,
Bettie Stevens
1315 E. Broadway
Waukesha, Wi. 53186

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bettie Stevens".

March 12, 1998

Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison WI 53702

I would like to encourage you to pass Assembly Bill 111 requiring insurers including health maintenance organizations, preferred provider plans, limited service health organizations and plans provided by the state to cover the diagnosis and treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist within the scope of the acupuncturist's certificate, if diagnosis and treatment of the condition by a physician is covered.

I was suffering from migraine headaches as often as three or more times weekly. My physician had had me try several different medications to keep me from having migraines but none were effective. After having a series of acupuncture treatments in the spring of 1997, I now get migraines very infrequently (no more than once a month).

I also am allergic to many things such as pollens, chemicals, trees, grasses, dust, etc. Because of these year-round allergies, I frequently get sinus infections requiring me to take antibiotics and I often miss a day or more of work when I get them. I have had allergy shots and other treatments but still suffer from sinus infections. After acupuncture treatment, I was able to go nearly three months without a sinus infection.

Unfortunately, I have had to pay for these treatments out of my own pocket. I urge you to pass this bill and help others like me who have had success with acupuncture be able to afford the treatments.

Sincerely,



Dianne Fitzgerald
2408 Calypso Rd, Apt 4
Madison WI 53704-2957

cc: J. B. Chung

3/3/98

Clifford Otte, Chairman
27th Assembly Dist.
Room 109 West
State Capital
Madison, Wisc 53702

Sir:

It has come to my attention that a bill (AB 111) was introduced requiring insurers, HMO's, etc.; to cover treatment/diagnosis by an acupuncturist. I am a strong advocate and supporter of alternative medicines and, also, feel very strongly about the right to choice of treatment for a condition, and feel it's about time a bill such as this be passed.

I have experienced serious pain and female problems which my acupuncturist has been able to successfully treat, whereas with conventional medicine, I may have had to have surgery. I will be always grateful for the sensitive, caring and knowledgeable person she is.

I urge you to support this bill and act on it soon.

Sincerely,
Mia Harris
506 No-Center Av
Merrill, Wis 54452

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To _____

Date 3-16-98 Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Janet George

of 15 W. Wind Circle

Phone Madison 53704

(608) 241-1049

Telephoned		Please Call	
Called to See You		Rush	
Returned Your Call		Will Call Again	

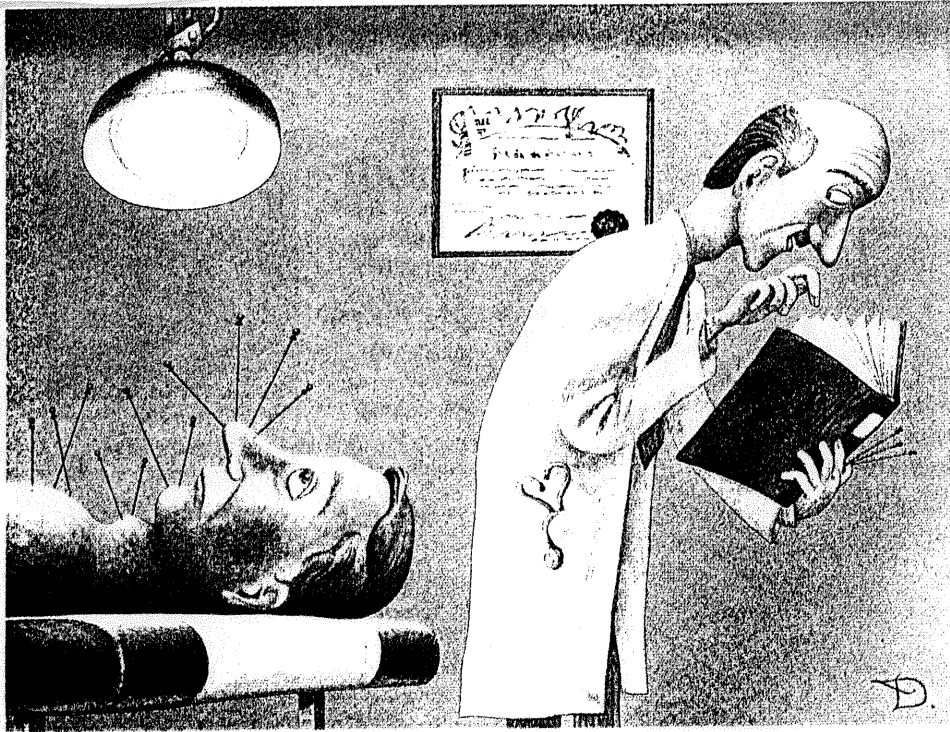
Message for AB 111
63 feels like 20
now with acupuncture



Party Receiving Call

News & Notes

By KARI WATSON



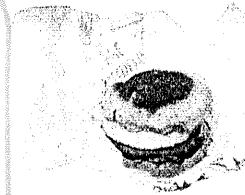
SIGN OF THE TIMES

M.D.s Cash in on Acupuncture

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH recently approved acupuncture as "an effective therapy for certain medical conditions." In the same breath, the panel, which was made up primarily of Western M.D.s, insisted that when seeking treatment, consumers must first see a Western M.D. who practices acupuncture.

But what does this mean for the 10,000-plus non-M.D. acupuncturists in the United States?

Although Mary F. Bochichio, president of the Florida State Oriental Medical Association, is optimistic about the acupuncture validation, she and other non-M.D. acupuncturists are afraid that Western physicians will try to invade their turf by taking a crash-course in acupuncture. "It takes almost 4,000 hours to understand acupuncture and its diagnostic techniques," she says. "When an M.D. takes a 200-hour class, it's like taking a weekend course in surgery."



ANTIOXIDANTS

A Green Light on McMuffins?

CERTAINLY EATING AN EGG McMuffin can't be good for you. But a recent study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* may have people believing it won't hurt.

The study subjects took twenty times the recommended daily dosage of vitamins C and E, and then ate fat-filled McDonald's McMuffins. When the subjects' blood vessels were examined, there were no signs of damage or blockage.

Gary D. Plotnick, M.D., one of the study's authors, is concerned that his study, which examined the relationship between blood vessels and fat, has been misconstrued as a free ticket to eat whatever you want. "We're not willing to say that, based on this study, you can take vitamins and pig out," he says. "Our best advice is to eat a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet."

HEALTH



A Brush with Poison

THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) now requires that all fluoride toothpaste containers carry a poison warning label.

Some dentists think this is an unnecessary move. "The label is overkill," says Christopher Hughes, D.M.D., chairman of pediatric dentistry at Boston University's School of Dental Medicine. "As with all over-the-counter products, there is an inherent danger if you don't follow the manufacturer's instructions."

An FDA spokesperson claims, "Since there was a significant risk that a child might accidentally ingest an entire tube of toothpaste, the label was warranted."

However, by Hughes's calculations, a 40-pound child would need to swallow more than 90 mg (just shy of a half-cup) of fluoride for it to constitute a possible toxic dose.

Issues surrounding fluoride often inspire great debate (see our article, page 94).

MIDWEST
PAIN TREATMENT CENTER
3005 RIVERSIDE DR.
BELOIT, WI 53611
606/386-8771

Dear Representative

Please Support A Bill. As you can see from the enclosed article it is only appropriate for a practitioner fully trained and licensed in Acupuncture to be covered by insurance if a non-trained practitioner is. This bill does not mandate Insurance Companies to cover treatments so it should be a no-brainer to pass this Bill.

Thank you
Jennifer Blahnik

6 March 1998

Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Mr. Otte,

I understand you serve on a committee that is considering a bill (AB 111) that would require the various health insurance providers to cover the diagnosis and treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist, within the scope of the acupuncturist's certificate, if diagnosis and treatment of the condition by a physician is covered. Referral from a physician would not be required.

I am writing to ask for your support in getting this bill passed. Three members of my family have received beneficial treatment from a licensed Wisconsin acupuncturist during the past year. In all cases she has successfully treated conditions that have failed to respond under traditional care by physicians or she has enhanced patient recovery in conjunction with traditional medical care. Among the illnesses she has treated successfully are asthma, chronic rhinitis, eczema, chronic sinusitis, carpal tunnel injury, and anemia. None of her care has been covered by insurance, a situation that has added more than \$1,000 to our personal medical expenses.

I feel our acupuncturist's treatments, which have accomplished progress where insurable care has failed, deserve equal respect by insurers. Please work to secure passage of this bill; it will bring significant increases in fairness to the health care industry and will make available a valid treatment option to anyone, not just citizens with the resources to pay for non-covered care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Ann Bausum

1501 Townhall Road
Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0204

Deb Stellpflug
Rt. 5, Box 134
Sparta, WI 54656
February 21, 1998

Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District

Dear Representative Otte,

I am writing to ask you to support and act on bill AB 111 that would require insurers to cover the diagnosis and treatment by an acupuncturist. I have been treated over the last eight years by Dr. Hassert of Acupuncture Centre of Madison. Dr. Hassert has successfully treated me for a variety of complaints including: a thyroid disorder, gastro-intestinal distress, high blood pressure brought on by stress and numerous other symptoms. Had I been under conventional medical care, I would have been prescribed numerous prescription drugs that possibly would have brought some symptomatic relief but would not have corrected the problem. As a result, today I am reasonably healthy and am the kind of person insurance companies want to insure. With the passage of this bill, you and your committee are in the position to educate the public on the benefits of Acupuncture and give it its rightful place alongside the accepted medical care that is currently being covered by insurance today.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deb Stellpflug



Brian & Gayle Dumler
3108 Martha's Lane
Stevens Point, WI 54481

27th Assembly District
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

February 22, 1998

Dear Mr Otte,

I understand that a bill (AB 111) has been introduced that would require insurers to cover the diagnosis and treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist. As a person who has benefitted from an acupuncturist treatment, I would encourage you to support this bill. My wife had several surgeries, prescription medication and other treatments for a painful condition called endometrioses prior to visiting an acupuncturist. After 6 to 8 treatments she has been pain free for the last year! I am currently under the treatment of an acupuncturist for enlarged prostate symptoms and poor sleep and experiencing results. We have both tried the traditional procedures with our local doctors with little or no results. We both are very happy with the results we have experienced with acupuncture.

Sincerely,

Brian Dumler

Mr. Otte :

11/20/11

I write to urge you to do all you can
re the passage of AB 111. It is urgent
that insurers cover treatment by a credentialed
acupuncturist. Expensive pain medication
mask symptoms, + do not give long-
range relief for many conditions.
My experience with acupuncture for
migraines is positive + life-giving -
without costly drugs + emergency treatment

Sincerely,

J. Schuller

2000 ... 111 ... 54518

Chairperson Clifford Otte
27th Assembly District
Room 109 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Mr. Otte,

I would like to urge your support for AB 111 (introduced 1-29-98) to require health insurers to provide coverage for diagnosis and treatment of conditions by a licensed acupuncturist, without the requirement of a referral from a physician.

I believe great savings will occur by treatment by acupuncturists; I first sought an acupuncturist several years' ago when my treatment, with various antibiotics, from a physician did not help my flu/bronchitis problems. I had one treatment from a licensed acupuncturist - the next day, after suffering for over 2 months, I was free of all symptoms--and remained that way. I do have friends who have had various problems from carpal tunnel syndrome to sciatica, all enduring years of treatment and pain before seeking an acupuncturist. In one case, my friend had been told by her physician that she would "just have to live" with the pain from knees virtually depleted of cartilage. She was using a cane and, at home, a walker. Asking her doctor about going to an acupuncturist, he told her, "Well, I guess I can't argue with something that seems to work & is centuries old." I saw her at the clinic after about 4 treatments; she asked me to go out to her car with her to see her dog--I was amazed to see her, without any cane, literally bound down the stairs and stride across the parking lot. I believe she had about 10 treatments in all and does go back after a few months for a maintenance treatment--but she has achieved pain relief and a wonderful freedom and mobility.

I do commend Wisconsin for being in the forefront of licensing acupuncturists (I know many people in Illinois who will only be treated in Wisconsin for this reason.) As acupuncture becomes more and more "mainstream" there is a danger of physicians, chiropractors, etc. with little or no training, doing this procedure. I for one am very careful to seek only qualified, licensed practitioners.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and help in passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Tom Yankaitis
W9455 Ripley Rd.
Cambridge, WI 53523

AB 111

2-11-98

via call forwarding

→ Please support AB 111

> Mary Richardson
920-845-7369
"75-yr-old" crying

> Eldean Milward
920-831-5889

Tracy Stevens
215 W. Laflin Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186

February 9, 1998

Clifford Otte
Room 109 West
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Mr. Otte,

I am writing you to ask for your support in getting AB111 passed.

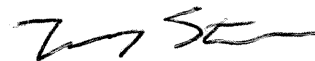
I have suffered with severe allergies for most of my 42 years. Last May I began acupuncture treatments for my allergies and experienced for the first time a year without incapacitating allergy attacks. You are probably aware that last year was considered a very bad year for allergy sufferers, but thankfully not for me.

Over the years I have seen numerous physicians in the hopes of receiving effective treatment for my allergies. None of the conventional therapies prescribed gave me significant relief. Often the effects of treatment were as bad as the allergies themselves.

Acupuncture has a proven track record of literally thousands of years of effective treatment for a wide variety of ailments. Isn't it about time we required insurance companies to recognize acupuncture as an effective health care alternative.

Thank you for your time and support of AB111.

Sincerely,



Tracy Stevens

Deering, Bonnie

From: Cheri Fuller-Olson[SMTP:clfo54@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 1998 7:37 PM
To: Rep.Black; Rep.Hasenohrl; Rep.Johnsrud; Rep.Lehman; Rep.Ott; Rep.Otte; Rep.Urban;
Rep.Williams
Subject: AB 111

Cheri Fuller-Olson
2012 Middleton Street
Middleton, WI 53562

I am writing in regard to the consideration for passage of Assembly Bill 111. I have an illness called "fibromyalgia" which is similar to chronic fatigue syndrome and the Persian Gulf War syndrome. I have been afflicted with this chronic illness for approximately 4-5 years now.

After being diagnosed with this illness I had terrible symptoms of fatigue, incredibly painful knotted and inflamed muscles, stomach distress, headaches, vertigo (loss of balance), ringing in my ears, inability to concentrate, inability to do normal tasks, inability to cope with the pain and suffering I was having. The list could take up an entire page because the symptoms varied so much and struck often. It is thought by some that Job in the bible may actually have had fibromyalgia.

I saw rheumatologists, general practitioners, neurologists, ear-nose and throat doctors, chiropractors, 3 physical therapists, a physiatrist and probably several other doctors I have forgotten. After a year to two years of struggling, having no pain medication give me relief and having no solution at all offered from Western medical doctors (whose main consensus was I would never work more than very part-time again and never regain my former life) I was told by someone to try acupuncture. I was very much a skeptic, since I knew nothing about it and it seemed "far out". I decided to try it since I had no options open to me through any other channels.

I began treatments and within a matter of weeks my pain dropped by one-half. My body continued to throw symptom after symptom at me, but now I had found someone who actually HELPED! Every time my body threw a new curve at me I had the ability to fight back with help from my acupuncturist. As my system strengthened I was slowly able to regain more and more of my former life. At present, I am able to do most activities that I used to do, work full-time and live a relatively pain-free life. The rheumatologist who treated me had told me I had one of the worst cases of this illness she had EVER seen, and she specialized in treating people with my illness. She has since passed away, and I truly wish she could witness the incredible miracle that acupuncture created for me.

The passage of AB111 would mean several things to me. It would help me financially greatly, since I am a single parent and cannot give up my acupuncture treatments, no matter what other expenses I have to cut back on. I would also make a statement that this wonderful ancient practice IS REAL and does work as so many of us who use it know. It would allow many to have treatments who currently cannot afford it, since insurance companies do not cover the expense. This ancient form of medicine has been around approximately 4,000 years. Something that lasts that long

should be given some merit and respect. Because it seems different and is not understood by the general population, should not immediately discredit it. I rarely see regular doctors anymore. I simply do not need to. Acupuncture has become my main form of healthcare.

Please vote for AB111. It will cause many people to seek out a form of healthcare that can do wonders for many illnesses that currently are viewed as "untreatable" by our medical doctors.

Sincerely,
Cheri Fuller-Olson

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Preliminary

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Consumer Affairs

Assembly Bill 111

Relating to: requiring insurers to cover treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist if there is coverage for treatment of the condition by a physician and prohibiting collective bargaining with respect to the requirement.

By Representatives Schneider, Robson, Ziegelbauer, Gronemus, Baldwin, Notestein, L. Young, Boyle and Vander Loop.

February 18, 1997 Referred to committee on Consumer Affairs.

January 29, 1998 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (8) Representatives Otte, Johnsrud, Ott, M. Lehman, Urban, Williams, Hasenohrl and Black.
Absent: (0) None.

Appearances for

- Representative Marlin Schneider, 72nd Assembly District, author
- Dr. J. Chung, Madison
- Marcia BonDurant, Cross Plains
- Darlene Woldt, Madison
- Glenna Wetmore, Sun Prairie

Appearances against

- Janet Swandby, Madison, WI Retail Lumber Assn.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations for

- Representative Bob Ziegelbauer, 25th Assembly District
- Michelle Jesko Voss, Madison
- Carole Wakefield, Madison

Registrations against

- Jim Tenuta, Madison, WI Assn. of Life & Health Insurers

- Ron Kuehn, Madison, WI Assn. of Life Underwriters; Independent Insurance Agents; and Professional Insurance Agents
- Bill G. Smith, Madison, National Federation of Independent Business/Wisconsin
- Bill G. Smith, Madison, Coalition for Cost Effective Health Care
- Dan Schwartzer, Madison, WI Assn. of Health Underwriters
- Peter Kammer, Madison, WI Assn. of HMOs

Daniel A. Young
Committee Clerk

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
AB 111 (-1162/1)

Amendment No. if Applicable

FISCAL ESTIMATE
DOA-2048 N(R10/94)

- ORIGINAL
- CORRECTED
- UPDATED
- SUPPLEMENTAL

Subject

Acupuncture Services

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation
or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb
Within Agency's Budget Yes No

- Increase Existing Appropriation
- Decrease Existing Appropriation
- Create New Appropriation
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory
2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory
4. Decrease Revenues
 - Permissive
 - Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
- Towns
 - Villages
 - Cities
 - Counties
 - Others _____
 - School Districts
 - WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR
- FED
- PRO
- PRS
- SEG
- SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill will have no fiscal impact on the Commission

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)
Wisconsin Employment Relations
Commission

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

Peter G. Davis
General Counsel 266-2993

Date

2/26/97

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
 AB 111 (-1162/1)
 Amendment No. if Applicable

FISCAL ESTIMATE
 DOA-2048 N

- ORIGINAL UPDATED
 CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL

Subject

This bill requires health care plans to cover treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist if the same condition would be covered if treated by a physician.

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget Yes No

- Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
 Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
 Decrease Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
 Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others _____
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) reviews policy forms to ensure compliance with Wisconsin's laws and regulations, and responds to complaints. Ensuring that insurers comply with the requirements of this bill will be fulfilled as part of the standard activities of the office. Any additional cost will be absorbed by OCI.

In accordance with s. 601.423, Wis. Stats., the OCI is currently preparing the mandated study on the fiscal and social impacts of new mandated insurance benefits.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The cost of notifying insurers of the change and reviewing revised policy and form language would be absorbed within existing resources, and there would be no fiscal effect for the agency.

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

OCI/Eileen Mallow (608) 266-7843

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

Josephine Russo (608) 266-0102

Date

2/27/97

ORIGINAL UPDATED
 CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL

FISCAL ESTIMATE

DOA-2048 (R 11/90)

Subject

Health insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of condition by an acupuncturist.

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget Yes No

Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
2. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
4. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
 Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others _____
 School Districts VTAE Districts

Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

20.515

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 111 requires all health insurance plans offered to state employes to cover treatment provided by an acupuncturist if the plans would cover the same condition when provided by a physician. The state currently does not require the plans with which it contracts to provide acupuncture treatment, and to our knowledge none do so.

Because acupuncture has not been a covered benefit under health plans in general, no reliable cost or utilization data exist. Based on information provided by the consulting actuary, the Department provided estimates to the Legislature in 1995 that indicated acupuncturists treat 2% of all adults and 1% of children nationally and that each person averages 38 visits annually. The estimated cost of each visit ranged from \$60-80 for the first visit and \$20-25 for subsequent visits. Based on these figures, costs were estimated at \$2 per member per month per month. The actuary opined that this cost could double to \$4 if coverage were mandated, as cost and utilization tend to rise when a service becomes covered by insurance. The cost to the state would range from \$3.6 - 7.2 million annually. This was based on the estimated cost of \$2 -\$4 per member per month x 150,000 members x 12 months.

The Group Insurance Board's current consulting actuary has reviewed the previous estimates and indicates that they are at the conservative end of the range. That is, it is unlikely that the actual costs would exceed these limits in the near future. The actuary further indicates that the relative lack of certified acupuncturists, as well as the lack of familiarity with the procedure in the Midwest, will tend to keep the costs below this level for some time. However, it should also be noted that the number of acupuncturists, while relatively small in comparison to other providers, appears to be increasing. In 1992, 20 acupuncturists were certified in Wisconsin under Chapter 451, 120 in 1995 and 180 in 1997, according to the Department of Regulation and Licensing.

Some of the expected costs may offset existing medical costs. However, no data exist to quantify what, if any, amount will be offset.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

Department of Employee Trust Funds
Sandy Drew 267-2929

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

David Amrichs

Date

July 2, 1997

FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET

1997 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect
DOA-2047(R11/90)

ORIGINAL UPDATED
 CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
AB 111

Amendment No.

Subject
Health insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of a condition by an acupuncturist.

I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):

II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized fiscal impact on State funds from:	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category		
State Operations-Salaries and Fringes	\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)	(FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs		-
Local Assistance		-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$ See Narrative	\$ -
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR	\$	\$ -
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
III. State Revenues- Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	Increased Rev.	Decreased Rev.
GPR Taxes	\$	\$ -
GPR Earned		-
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$ -

NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT
STATE

LOCAL

NET CHANGE IN COSTS \$ See Narrative

\$

NET CHANGE IN REVENUES \$

\$

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)
Department of Employee Trust Funds
Sandy Drew 267-2929

Authorized Signature/telephone No.

David Hinrichs

Date

July 2, 1997

September 2, 1997

Ms. Jennifer Parker
186 Ohio Avenue
Madison, WI 53704

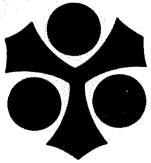
Dear Ms. Parker:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for Assembly Bill 111, which would mandate acupuncture coverage by insurance plans. I am generally opposed to mandating specific insurance coverage, as I feel that mandates of this nature drive up the cost of insurance. In turn, insurance becomes less affordable for more people. I believe that what is covered under a policy is best worked out between the individual, group or company buying the insurance coverage and the insurance company.

Sincerely,

CLIFFORD OTTE
State Representative
27th Assembly District

CO:bmd



MIDWEST CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES, L.L.P.

2828 MARSHALL COURT, SUITE 210, MADISON, WI 53705 (608) 231-3300 FAX (608) 231-0644

186 Ohio Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53704
August 27, 1997

Representative Clifford Otte, Chairman
Consumer Affairs Committee
State Capitol Rm# 109-West
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Otte:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 111, which mandates insurance coverage for acupuncture in Wisconsin.

I am strongly in favor of acupuncture being covered by insurance as both a consumer and as a mental health provider who takes a wholistic health approach to helping clients. I have utilized acupuncture as a patient and have found it to be a valuable therapy which complemented the traditional medical treatment available. Acupuncture is a nonintrusive therapy which helps specific disorders and problems, and which also contributes to the general health of the person. Oriental medicine contributes to our traditional western medicine in a complementary way, and should be seen as one more curative option rather than an alternative to western medicine. Professional acupuncturists view their therapy in this way.

As a mental health provider, I value acupuncture as another viable alternative for those who have mental health issues and physical problems. Physical and emotional health are intimately linked and affect one another in interdependent ways. Frequently, my mental health clients are not able to afford acupuncture since it is not covered by traditional health insurance policies.

I am asking for your support in passing AB 111. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in further details regarding my support for this bill.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Parker

Coalition for Cost Effective Health Care

ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN HMOS

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MIDWEST EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION

MIDWEST HARDWARE ASSOCIATION

METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION
OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT
BUSINESS/WISCONSIN

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS
OF WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM
MARKETERS AND CONVENIENCE STORES

WISCONSIN AUTOMOBILE AND TRUCK DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH
UNDERWRITERS

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF LIFE AND
HEALTH INSURERS

WISCONSIN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN BUSINESS COALITION ON HEALTH

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WISCONSIN JEWELERS ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN MANUFACTURERS AND COMMERCE

WISCONSIN MERCHANTS FEDERATION

WISCONSIN MOTORCYCLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

WISCONSIN RETAIL LUMBER ASSOCIATION

Position Statement

The Coalition for Cost Effective Health Care represents 21 business and trade associations whose members provide health care to more than a million Wisconsin employees.

The members of our Coalition support improving access to affordable and cost effective health care for Wisconsin employers and employees. As a result, the Coalition for Cost Effective Health Care opposes new government mandated health insurance benefits.

The Coalition members believe that decisions regarding the benefit design of employee health care plans should be made in the marketplace, not in the Legislature. Employers should be free to purchase and design benefit packages best suited to the needs of their employees and should not be constrained by mandated benefits that individually may have legislative appeal.

Legislative insurance mandates drive up costs and remove employer flexibility. Mandates also only affect one-half of the insured market because self-insured plans are governed by federal law and are not subject to state regulation. While proponents of mandated health insurance benefits argue the increased costs associated with any one mandate are minimal, the Coalition members believe it is critical for legislators to understand that a mere 1% increase in the cost of a health insurance plan equals approximately a \$36 million increase in premium cost for Wisconsin employers purchasing commercial health insurance.

Benefit mandates have a direct negative impact on overall consumer access to health care coverage. As mandated benefits increase premium costs, many small employers are unable to provide health insurance to their employees. As a result, mandated benefits have a disproportionately adverse affect on Wisconsin's small, commercially insured employers and employees and on government self-insured health plan consumers.

The members of the Coalition for Cost Effective Health Care urges you to oppose passage of Assembly 111.