



10-31-13

Dear Governor Inslee,

We are writing to bring your attention to an issue between innovative, integrative and holistic physicians in the State of Washington and the Medical Quality Assurance Commission. Integrative and holistic physicians seek to find new and alternative ways to treat patients. These methods are less invasive and often far less expensive than traditional medicine, which provides obvious benefits to the people of Washington.

Unfortunately, the Medical Quality Assurance Commission is comprised of individuals who do not understand integrative and holistic medicine. This has led to a disconnect between what the law says the Commission should do and what it actually does.

The law states that the use of nontraditional medicine by itself shall not constitute unprofessional conduct. MQAC is unable to properly apply this law. Its traditional physicians believe that the treatment for certain health conditions should be their traditional methods. If a physician does not use those traditional methods, then MQAC necessarily believes the physician has used substandard care. The result is that the state law that allows for nontraditional medicine is effectively ignored. This has led MQAC to target integrative and holistic physicians to such an extreme that nearly 75% of them have had disciplinary actions taken against them. Some of the individuals charged are amongst the best holistic physicians in the nation. They include two past presidents of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine.

Other states have had similar issues and solved them by creating a separate medical board for integrative and holistic physicians. We believe that the State of Washington should do the same. This would give the MQAC more time to investigate and prosecute traditional physicians who provide substandard care. It would also allow state law to be properly applied as integrative and holistic physicians could be disciplined based on their own national standards of care. The citizens of Washington would benefit from better and less expensive health care of both the traditional and nontraditional variety. When faced with these issues in the past, Washington has established separate boards for Osteopaths, Chiropractors and Naturopaths. It should do so again for integrative and holistic physicians.

Along with my fellow integrative and holistic physicians, we request a meeting with you and representatives from your office to explain in greater detail how a separate board could work. We have data that we can share with you and your staff about how important this issue is and how the

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WASHINGTON INTEGRATIVE STATE HOLISTIC MEDICAL DOCTORS SOCIETY

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people of Washington would benefit from having a separate medical board for integrative and holistic physicians.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to meeting with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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