



Minnesota Acupuncture Association
7809 Southtown Center
Suite #287
Bloomington, MN 55431

February 19, 2022

Re: HF853 Health Professionals Education Loan Forgiveness Program, and money appropriated

To whom it May Concern,

I am reaching out as the President of the MN Acupuncture Association (MAA) to urge your support of HF853 which will add Licensed Acupuncturists to the Health Professionals Loan Forgiveness Program. The MAA is Minnesota's professional association representing hundreds of healthcare providers, Licensed Acupuncturists, across the state. One of the major goals of the MAA is to ensure that Minnesotans have access to high quality, essential healthcare providers.

Licensed Acupuncturists work at all types of healthcare facilities and practices within the state of Minnesota. Being board certified and licensed healthcare providers, Acupuncture education is standardized across accredited schools. Acupuncturists education exists at two levels including graduate degree Master's programs as well as post-graduate Doctorate programs. Both programs prepare practitioners to assist with a multitude of complex disease processes.

Acupuncturists serve Minnesotans in a multitude of healthcare settings. Many providers run community based clinics, or work in our local hospitals and integrative healthcare facilities treating a wide variety of patient demographics. Acupuncture itself enjoys a robust, evidence-base for many health conditions. As a first-line recommendations for non-opioid pain management of chronic pain, Acupuncture and Licensed Acupuncturists are an integral aspect of the healthcare system in the Minnesota.

Legislation such as HF853 will help to ensure equity for healthcare providers that continue to serve MN communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Dougherty".

Dr. Nicholas Dougherty DAOM, Dipl Ac (NCCAOM), L.Ac
President, MN Acupuncture Association