



June 18, 2009

Greetings Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM) Community:

The American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine asks you to reach out with this message to your patients, friends, family and colleagues.



**JUNE 23, JULY 7, or JULY 21, 2009 -
HR 646: FLOOD THE PHONE LINES**

- » **CALL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REP** (www.house.gov)
- » **CALL YOUR SENATORS** (www.senate.gov)
- » **CALL THE PRESIDENT** (202-456-1111)

ASK THEM TO PASS HR 646, THE FEDERAL ACUPUNCTURE COVERAGE ACT

Our lobbying team needs one more thing to persuade congress to support HR 646 – **proof that patients care about this bill**. The act of calling asserts persuasive proof and asserts our collective voice. Crisscrossing the country, we're asking you to **JAM THE PHONE LINES** into your representatives' offices. Ask them to co-sponsor HR 646, encourage a companion bill in the Senate, and request the Obama administration fold HR 646 into our president's healthcare reform package.

When China faced a health care crisis in 1949, with too many people to treat, too little money, and too few doctors to provide care, they turned to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), now commonly referred to as acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM). **The U.S. presently faces a similar crisis**. We have unmet health care needs, virtually no preventative care, and spiraling costs we cannot support.

AOM has been providing an uninterrupted system of prevention and wellness world-wide for over 5,000 years. AOM makes primary health care more affordable because it provides successful treatments for chronic and acute conditions **at a fraction of the cost of Western medicine.** It differs from Western medicine by emphasizing patient education and preventive care and by teaching patients how to take personal responsibility for their health, along with treatment.

Allowing patients to decide what forms of health care services they choose in a free and open marketplace has been a long-standing principle in American economic history. Currently, Americans are forced to decide among the most expensive health care services in the world. Most insurance plans currently do not give the option to choose **one of the safest, most effective, and inexpensive forms of medical care—acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM)** (this includes acupuncture, Asian herbal medicine, medical massage, diet modifications, and breathing and movement therapies). When American medical consumers are given an opportunity to choose a less expensive, safer healthcare in the form of AOM, everybody wins. **A bill pending in the House of Representatives, HR 646,** redresses this inequity.

Place your support behind HR 646 by writing your Congressperson at <http://www.aaaomonline.org/hr646>, and join our Facebook community at <http://www.aaaomonline.org/facebook> to spread the word!

EDUCATE YOURSELF: Before calling, take a few minutes to learn about the bill.

- HR 646 bill: (Authored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey)
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.646.IH>:
- Congressman Hinchey published *a plea to his congressional colleagues* on June 8
http://www.aaaomonline.info/hinchey_acupuncture_dear_colleague.pdf
- HR 646 *Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act 2009 Fact Sheet*
http://www.aaaomonline.info/hinchey_hr_646_fact_sheet.pdf

Thank you for the growing consumer reports we've seen in the past few weeks as our AOM in U.S. Healthcare/ HR 646 Acupuncture in Medicare campaigns have taken hold. The rippling impact of expanding our advocacy is the key to assuring 54,000,000 Americans will be given the right to access – the right to choose AOM as a medical modality in their lives!

Please call your Congresspersons on Tuesday, June 23rd, July 7th, or July 21st, and ask them to support HR 646 and AOM in healthcare reform.