



May 7, 2009

**National Letter-writing Campaign to Support
“The Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act of 2009”
(HR 646)**

The AAAOM is issuing a call to action letter writing campaign in support of HR 646. We are at the forefront of a momentous change in U.S. healthcare, and acupuncture and Oriental medicine is an important part of this crucial transition. In supporting and passing HR 646, we are creating a firm foundation for our profession to propel from alternative medicine to mainstream, and we need everyone’s voice to make it happen!

What is HR 646 and why is it important?

This is a decisive moment for acupuncture and Oriental medicine. HR 646, also known as “The Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act of 2009,” amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of qualified acupuncturist services under part B of the Medicare Program, and to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for coverage of such services under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

The passing of this bill will open acupuncture and Oriental medicine (AOM) to many more patients who could benefit from its effectiveness. For practitioners and students, it will open the doors to new patients to serve. It will provide us all with more affordable healthcare choices and create a firm foundation for further integration into U.S. healthcare. Read more information about the bill in the *AAAOM Fact Book for H.R. 646*, http://www.aaaomonline.info/medicare_fact_book.pdf.

What can I do?

Write a letter to your Member of Congress. If you are a patient, practitioner, student or professional partner in the integrative health fields: Write a letter in support of HR 646! Ask each family member, friend, classmate, colleague, and, most important, each patient to write a letter to their Members of Congress. Provide them with the tools to do it—a sample letter is attached. Give them the time, space and encouragement to do it in your presence.

It is crucially important that *your* Congress Member knows the importance of this bill and how acupuncture has impacted your life – and the lives many constituents. Find the name and address of your Member of Congress: <http://www.house.gov>.

Do these letters really matter?

Yes. In order to count, in Washington, we need to be counted. Your voice matters, now more than ever! The pharmaceutical and insurance companies spend tens of millions of lobbying dollars each month to be heard on Capitol Hill. While our profession cannot compete with those dollars at this time, we have something those industries do not have: enthusiastic support from constituents whose lives are touched by this medicine. Our voice cannot be ignored in Washington if we stand united as one and speak together!

What should my letter say?

We have a sample for you to follow as a guide. Your letter should briefly state what HR 646 is, and why it is important to you. Making letters personal by handwriting them in this age of mass-email gives them more validity. The body of the letter should also include your full name and contact information, and be addressed specifically to your own Member of Congress. The sample letter can be found at: http://www.aaaomonline.info/example_letter_hr-646.doc

What can I do besides a hand written letter?

Follow it up with a phone call and, lastly, an email. We encourage everyone to take part, whether that is a handwritten letter, phone call or email. Please send emails to hr646support@gmail.com. These, too, will be hand delivered.

Where to send your letters and deadlines:

All letters collected by the AAAOM will be personally hand delivered by our AAAOM national lobbyist, Sam Brunelli. It is our goal to have all letters **by May 15th**. Please send all of your letters to:

For United State Postal Services Deliveries:

AAAOM
HR 646 Letter Campaign
PO Box 162340
Sacramento, CA 95816

For FedEx or UPS Deliveries:

AAAOM
HR 646 Letter Campaign
909 22nd Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
916-443-4770

To Fax:

AAAOM
Attention: HR 646 Letter Campaign
916-443-4766

Find out the name and address of your Member of Congress:
<http://www.house.gov>

The sample letter can be found at: http://www.aaaomonline.info/example_letter_hr-646.doc

Attention Entities Submitting Multiple Letters:

For best handling and organization, we encourage entities submitting multiple letters, such as schools, the AOM business community, practitioner partnerships, etc, to collect and send all letters together in one package to the AAAOM. This will also be more economical for your business entity and equally assure that the totality of letters written reach their intended recipients as they will be hand-carried by our lobbyist and personally placed in the hands of our congresspersons.

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