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Senate Bill SB120

Position of Maryland University of Integrative Health

SUPPORT

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

January 26, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill SB120

Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) is a graduate university that has the broadest array of integrative health and wellness programs of any college or university in the country. We offer over 20 degrees which includes Master's Degree in Acupuncture, Master's Degree in Acupuncture with a Chinese Herbal Medicine Specialization, Doctor of Acupuncture, and Doctor of Acupuncture with a Chinese Herbal Medicine Specialization.

We have been providing acupuncture services and education in Maryland since 1975, were the first acupuncture school accredited in the United States, and are the only acupuncture school located in Maryland.

We support the proposal to require future applicants for acupuncture licensure in Maryland to complete the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) exam. This will make licensure requirements for Maryland equivalent to other acupuncturist applicants around the country.

A critical component of the bill from our perspective is the provision grandfathering all those who were licensed before June 1, 2026. There are various philosophies and approaches to the field of acupuncture and the NCCAOM exam is very heavily geared toward a particular TCM approach. MUIH has been training outstanding acupuncturists for decades in Maryland and there has been no assertion of quality issues. However, since the NCCAOM will now be required we need to make changes in our curriculum to better prepare our students and graduates to take the exam. We are required to go through a formal process to change our curriculum which takes time and appropriate internal and external approvals. As a result, it is imperative that the grandfathering clause of June 1, 2026 be included to enable these changes be made and so students already in the pipeline before the curriculum changes are made are not adversely impacted.

Thank you for considering our testimony. For any questions on our comments, please contact Marc Levin, president, mlevin@muuh.edu.