

*AHS Advisory Board*

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(Sent Via email)

**Subject: SB 683 Presents a Clear Violation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment**

**Dear Representative Vaupel:**

Our Michigan organizations, members, and allies have been working with Representative Mary Whiteford in the hopes of amending SB 683, Senator Margaret O'Brien's traditional occult acupuncturist bill. SB 683 adversely affects over 400 of our Medical Acupuncture Technician members. Our organization, unlike our out of state opponents on the bill, are long time Michigan residents and employers. American Health Source has been operating in Michigan for over 45 years.

Senator Margaret O'Brien's bill, SB 683, will deny practice rights to our members and will cause a loss of their jobs and businesses in Michigan. Thus far our objections have largely fallen upon deaf ears.

Soon to be former Senator O'Brien, has refused to work with our organizations or to even meet with us. She is supporting the traditional Taoist acupuncturists because of a personal family relationship with one of their members.

Our organization has retained the law firms of Butzel Long and Fraser and Trebilcock and with their assistance we have obtained a legal opinion from a retired federal judge who specializes in constitutional law and is a professor at the University of Michigan. In consultation with our legal counsel at Fraser, also an assistant AG in Michigan, we have determined that we have a strong legal case against SB 683 on constitutional grounds.

It is our opinion (based upon legal analysis of SB 683) that this bill because it will mandate by law that Michigan residents seeking to obtain a license to practice acupuncture in Michigan must attend a traditional Taoist school of acupuncture and successfully pass a board exam

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based upon traditional Taoist acupuncture and because Taoism is a recognized world religion as upheld by the US Supreme Court, is that SB 683 is unconstitutional and violates 1st amendment rights regarding the establishment of religion clause of both the Michigan and US Constitutions. This situation exists because the bills Taoist religious requirements, if mandated by state law, would be the ONLY path to acupuncture licensure in Michigan.

For this reason, our legal counsel is drafting a warning letter to the State of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, LARA, and in a separate letter is requesting a legal opinion from the Michigan Attorney General's Office.

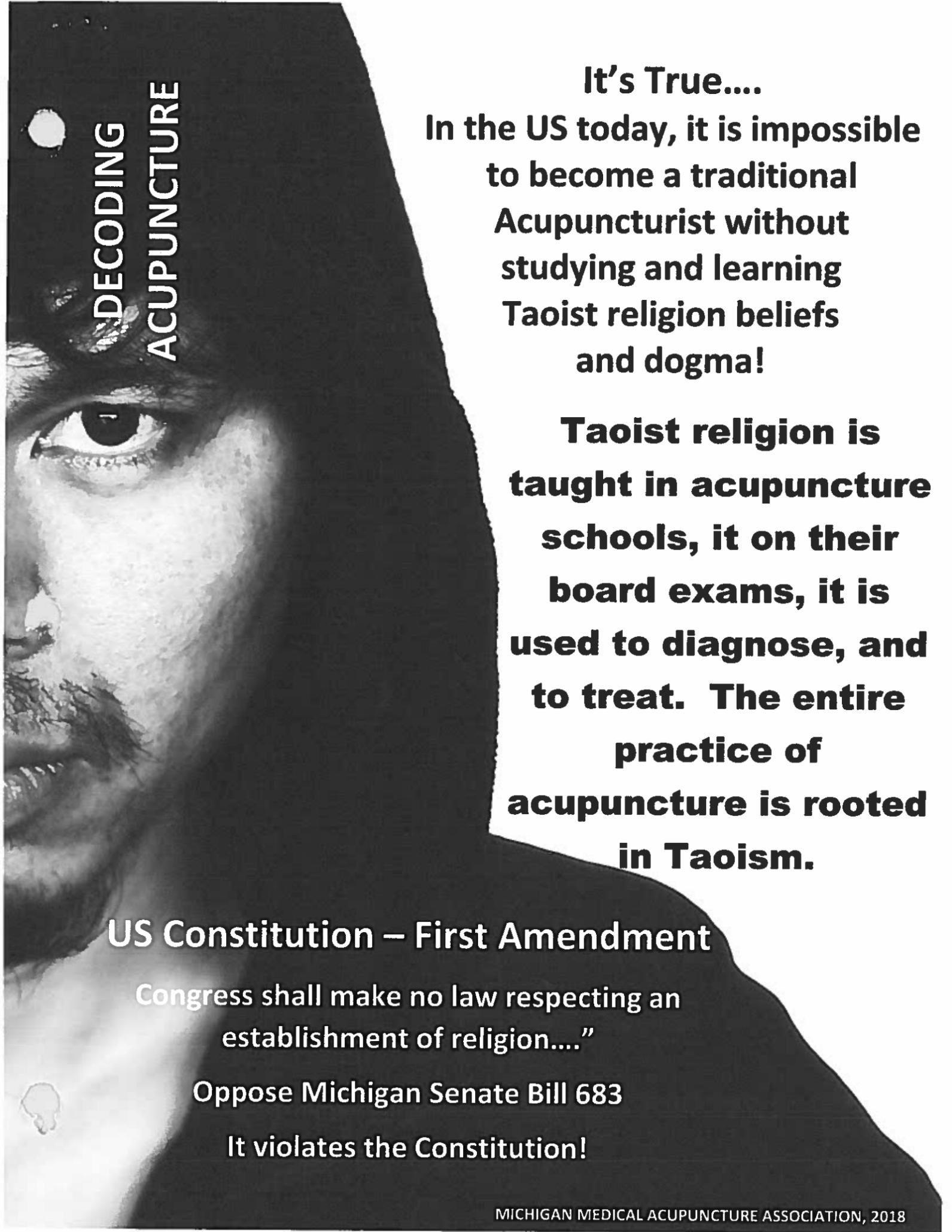
We respectfully request that you hold off on a Health Policy Committee vote to move SB 683 out of committee until the constitutional questions related to SB 683 can be appropriately addressed by LARA and the Michigan AG's Office.

I will be attending tomorrow's Health Policy Committee meeting and would appreciate the opportunity to speak on this matter before the committee.

Sincere regards,

(Sent December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, via email)

Dr. Gregory T. Lawton, President  
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DECODING  
ACUPUNCTURE

**It's True....**

**In the US today, it is impossible to become a traditional Acupuncturist without studying and learning Taoist religion beliefs and dogma!**

**Taoist religion is taught in acupuncture schools, it on their board exams, it is used to diagnose, and to treat. The entire practice of acupuncture is rooted in Taoism.**

**US Constitution – First Amendment**

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion....”**

**Oppose Michigan Senate Bill 683**

**It violates the Constitution!**