

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2016 8:06:12 AM

From: Betty Edmond [mailto:bedmond@aoma.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Letter from AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine

Attention: Texas Sunset Commission Members

My personal thanks to each of you for your time and dedication in the review of the Texas Medical Board, and subsequently the Texas Board of Acupuncture Examiners.

As introduction of myself, I serve as President and CEO of AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine (AOMA), a regionally-accredited institution of higher education, providing master's and doctoral level education in the field of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, located right here in Austin, Texas. I am also a physician, a senior healthcare executive and an advocate for the advancement of acupuncture and integrative medicine. I have 19 years of experience as Vice President of Medical Affairs at [Seton Healthcare Family](#) in Austin and Medical Director of [Seton's Children's Hospital](#), now Dell Children's Medical Center. Previously, I practiced in academic and clinical medicine as a faculty member and specialist in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and have had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Governors for AOMA.

Upon becoming President of AOMA, I have learned first-hand the depth and breadth of education of our students in the evidence-based, safe and effective practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, as well as the extensive training in the biomedical sciences essential to practice in this medical field. In addition, I have been very impressed with the clinical acumen and professionalism of our graduates and alumni practitioners.

It is of great concern to me, and many in our field, that other licensed practitioners in Texas are practicing acupuncture, also referred to as "dry needling", without sufficient training in safe and effective practice techniques. This practice creates the potential for financial harm to our graduates and, more importantly, to patients who may receive unsafe or ineffective needle therapy. It is disturbing to think that an individual in Texas, or anywhere else, could be subjected to therapeutic insertion of a needle by someone other than a licensed acupuncturist or a physician duly trained in these therapeutic techniques. It is my hope that a regulatory environment may be created that ensures standards of training for the therapeutic use of a needle in this state, and assures oversight of the safety and effective of this practice.

I find these to be exciting times in healthcare in Texas! I believe that medicine is at a crossroads today in healthcare delivery. The health of Texans and the nation is challenged by a crisis level of chronic disease occurring at alarming rates and ever-younger age. In pain management, there is increasing use of high risk drugs leading to harm and addiction. Just as the causes of this healthcare crisis are multifactorial, I believe that it will take a multi-disciplinary approach to meet these challenges in healthcare. At AOMA we remain committed to leadership in the transformation of care delivery by integrating and coordinating healthcare services among providers to best meet the needs of patients. As our Vision states, we are committed to being "A Leader in Oriental Medicine and other Integrative Medicines by engaging with Our Communities" here in Texas.

We applaud the Sunset Commission Members attentive consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Betty Edmond, M.D.

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**Transforming Lives and Communities through
Graduate Education in Oriental Medicine.**

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