

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman Bustamante Adams and members of the Sunset subcommittee.

My name is Dr. Bruce Fong. I am the Vice President of the Nevada State Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners. By way of background, I have been actively practicing of both osteopathic and homeopathic medicine in the State of Nevada since 2001. I have been an active member of this Board since 2005 and have served in various roles including President during my tenure.

I am here to speak to you all and to urge you to NOT recommend this board for sunset.

Nevada is a unique state. We have industries that exist that don't exist anywhere else except maybe in one or a few other states. For example: the gaming industry, the boxing/mma industry, the marijuana industry to the brothels in Nevada.

The industry of homeopathy in Nevada is unique. Why the industry exists was because of a few brave pioneering physicians who took a chance and sought a safe and effective medical alternative for many versus the status quo.

Today, increasing numbers of patients are seeking an alternative to conventional medicine due to various reasons including a lack of long term results. Homeopathy as has always been defined by NRS 630A since its inception in the 1980's essentially covers ALL of alternative, complementary and integrative medicine. This Board's mandate is to insure the safe practice of these forms of alternative healing arts that are again INCREASINGLY being sought after by the general public.

Nevada through this board is poised to set standards and be on the cutting edge of this emerging industry. This Board has provided a path for physicians who seek to treat patients with emerging technologies and techniques that are not in the more conventional or pharmaceutical approaches yet regulates said physicians in such a manner to allow for a nurturing of advanced yet safe practices of medicine, not always or well covered under allopathic or osteopathic scopes of practice. Our goal as a Board has always been and

remains to this day, to set safe standards of practice on scientifically proven and evidence-based forms of healing while regulating individuals in their scopes of practice in Nevada. The board also addresses and takes steps to ensure public safety and inform law enforcement agencies as needed in case of individuals practicing without a license should this come to our attention.

Today, this Board actively seeks direct communications and a resolution from the Nevada Attorney General's office on a long outstanding legal bill. A bill which in my opinion should never have been assessed in this manner against this Board. It occurred because of the Board refusing to license an individual the Board had found might be practicing in a questionable manner. That individual sued the Board and its members for the same. The Attorney General rightfully defended my predecessors on the Board but then assessed these fees despite the Board's rightful actions. It was agreed by many previous Attorney Generals that this bill was one that the AG's Office did NOT really want to seek payment for but instead their office has instructed us repeatedly to simply stay up to date on the current bills which our Board has done. We will seek that this situation be fully clarified, addressed and resolved in short order as it creates confusion on many fronts

Thank you for your time.

Bruce