



Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists 加拿大中医师和针灸师监管机构联盟

Alliance canadienne des organismes de réglementation
des praticiens de la médecine traditionnelle chinoise et des acupuncteurs

November 26, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Sean Casey, MP
Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Health
sean.casey@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Casey,

Re: Opposition to Amendments to Bill C-368 at HESA Committee

On behalf of the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB-TCMPA), we write to express our opposition to the recent amendments introduced by the NDP to Bill C-368 during the study by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health.

These amendments undermine the very purpose of Bill C-368, which seeks to ensure natural health products (NHPs) are not treated as therapeutic products under the *Food and Drugs Act*. By subjecting NHPs to the same regulatory requirements as pharmaceutical drugs, these changes will lead to increased costs, reduced patient access, and significant disruptions for small- and medium-sized Canadian companies that manufacture and distribute NHPs.

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists rely on safe and accessible NHPs to provide culturally appropriate care to their patients. The proposed amendments risk limiting their ability to do so, disproportionately affecting communities that rely on traditional medicines, including Canada's Asian population. This change also contradicts the recommendations of the 1998 Standing Committee report, which emphasized that NHP regulations should avoid unnecessary restrictions on access and affordability.

We urge the committee to reject these amendments and support the original intent of Bill C-368 to protect patients and healthcare practitioners who depend on NHPs for effective care. Enclosed is a copy of our 27 May 2024 letter of support for Bill C-368 in relation to affordability, access to patient care, and strengthening our healthcare system in Canada.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bertrand
Executive Director
825-901-0618
jennifer@carb-tcmpa.org

Enclosure