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22 February 2021

Rep. Zach Stephenson, Committee Chair  
MN House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee  
509 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

**SUBJECT: HF 785 – Acupuncture Coverage for Pain and Ongoing Pain Management**

Dear Chairman Stephenson and members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

I am pleased to introduce you to the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), a specialized accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). National, regional, and specialized accreditors are reviewed by the USDE to ensure that the accrediting body meets specific standards established by Congress. The Secretary of Education is charged with review of accrediting bodies and providing recognition to those accrediting agencies that meet the Secretary of Education's criteria. ACAOM's scope of recognition from the USDE is:

The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("candidacy") throughout the united states of professional non-degree and graduate degree programs, including professional doctoral programs, in the field of acupuncture and/or oriental medicine, as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture and/or oriental medicine that offer such programs.

ACAOM is the only specialized accreditor recognized by the USDE to accredit institutions and programs in the field of acupuncture and/or oriental medicine. ACAOM was founded in 1982 and has been continuously recognized by the USDE since 1988.

ACAOM has published [ACAOM Educational Standards](#) for both Master's degree and Doctoral degree training programs. We currently accredit a total of one hundred and eighteen (118) programs, for fifty-one (51) independent institutions at fifty-eight (58) different locations in twenty-two (22) states, including Minnesota, with a total enrollment exceeding six thousand five hundred (6500) students. Each of these institutions/programs can be found on our website at [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

ACAOM is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization. As such we do not specifically advocate on behalf of state legislation, however we are available to answer any questions that you, the committee members or your collective staffs may have about ACAOM accreditation standards and how they relate to HF 785.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 952-212-2434 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. McKenzie, J.A.C.".

Mark S McKenzie, PhD (China), MSOM, LAc  
ACAOM Executive Director  
[Mark.McKenzie@acaom.org](mailto:Mark.McKenzie@acaom.org)