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## **Commentary on Energy Practices Legislation and the impact on Scientists**

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When one looks at the scope of energy practices across this country it is interesting to see that there is little direct focus on the societal laws which govern us day to day from within the community. Instead, there is a marked expectation that the community as a whole will not be understood and will actively be slandered. As practitioners know, change begins with personal transformation. Scientists need your help. Could you please develop groups with the express purpose of resolving the legislative issues around energy healing and who may practice so that scientist may move forward with research in this area?

As a community of practitioners, from the broader legislative perspective based on these new laws, we are not being seen as energy practitioners, instead we are being seen as massage therapists. The two are different. Often, they are dramatically different. This is not to denigrate massage therapists who are also engaged in doing energy practices of some type. Nor is this an attempt to remove energy practices from either the scope of practice or the skills of a massage therapist. For a massage therapist, who is called to do the work, energy practices can and should be included within the massage therapy scope of practice. And in that situation it is appropriate for the board of registration in massage to oversee energy practices within the massage therapy community. It is however a limited view and form of how the energy practices, can and should, be done and governed in this country.

It is inappropriate for a massage therapy board of registration to dictate to a physician, nurse, physical therapist, acupuncturist or chiropractor, to name a few. Each of those professions have a different focus and training level and yet each has many practitioners in each of the *currently 23 states* that have now said energy practices are included under a massage therapy board of registration. More action needs to be taken to clarify and

include energy practices in the scope of practice for those additional professions in those states.

Further, we need a better and more comprehensive solution to the many delicate issues facing the energy practices community. This is important not just for practitioners themselves but for the scientists who study them and the funding organizations who are involved. In 23 states, because of the new laws that require a massage therapy credential to do the work in that state, scientists would potentially be in violation of the law if they use a physician or nurse as a provider in their study, unless in that state, energy practices are specifically listed within the providers scope of practice. This means that a scientist researching in this area must now spend substantial time keeping track of state politics within the health care disciplines. This is unsustainable.

The result of these changes, which have happened over the last four years, mean that a scientist must now add legislative participation to fighting for funding, keeping track of federal and state regulations which govern research, being compliant with all regulations, finding subjects and practitioners who are reliable, building the necessary skills and understanding so that they can design appropriate studies that look at what they actually want to study, designing appropriate studies ... The list goes on. And since this is a niche area of research with very limited funding (often done out of the scientists own pocket), it translates to limited numbers of studies. Limited study quality because of lack of funding for cutting edge equipment. (Please give me a university physics, material science or optical sciences departments budget.) Limited quality in designs because of a lack of specific training in how to do research in this area. If perspectives are to change, and do so in a time of change, when the world needs the wisdom which can be created with more research, community support would be vital.

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