



Acupuncture and
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Law Gives Minnesotans Greater Access to Acupuncture

Minneapolis, MN (July 8, 2009) On May 7, Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the Equal Access to Acupuncture Act and Edith R. Davis Memorial (SF245/HF286). This bill requires all health care policies that claim to cover acupuncture to reimburse licensed acupuncturists for procedures performed within their scope of practice. Up until now, some plans would reimburse chiropractors and physicians but would not reimburse licensed acupuncturists. The new law goes into effect on August 1, 2009.

Acupuncture is becoming an increasingly viable health care option for more Minnesotans and is covered by many health insurance plans. Insurance coverage has expanded largely due to the mounting scientific evidence that acupuncture works well for specific ailments such as pain and nausea. Acupuncture also has a good safety record and produces few unwanted side effects. Many hospitals including Abbott Northwestern, Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota now offer acupuncture services.

Licensed acupuncturists have had thousands of hours of training culminating in a master's degree. Other health providers who perform acupuncture have often received a small percentage of this training. There are currently 360 licensed acupuncturists practicing around Minnesota.

Kimberly Fritz, president of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association of Minnesota stated, "This new law provides the public with another quality choice for their care and provides the Oriental medicine profession equal recognition under these plans."

This bill was named for the late Edith Davis, who was a pioneer in acupuncture and Oriental medicine in Minnesota. More and more people are including acupuncture as part of their health care options. To find a licensed acupuncturist, go to www.aomam.org

The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Association of Minnesota is the state professional association for licensed acupuncturists. For further information, contact Bonnie Bolash at 763-504-9483.

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