

From Kallie Byrd Guimond, **AcuCongress**:

It is always difficult at the end of every Congressional Session to let go of the legislation you put your heart into for a couple of years. I am incredibly proud of the work done, and we met with Rep. Chu's office, thanks to AAOA Chair Michelle Lau, and believe we have our next steps.

First: please don't be disheartened. The work we did was all designed to run a sustainable influence campaign...key word is SUSTAINABLE. And we did work very hard, in the strangest Congressional session I have ever seen in 25 years on the Hill. We got an introduction 8 months later than expected, thanks to federal processes being interrupted and the whole Hill reeling from what happened around the 2020 election. And we still have a lot to do to unite this industry around the advocacy of the profession. But thank you for the tremendous effort! We actually have more momentum than we've ever had federally. So what do we do with it?

1. We are in the process of amending the bill. There is an AcuCongress draft due on the 15th. We have seen the amendment from the Medical Acupuncturists but have not seen those from NCCAOM yet. As soon as we have a draft all stakeholders agree with, we need to cosponsor-shop BEFORE introduction. We are seeking to expand the definition of "qualified acupuncture services" not to include conditions, as was stated before, but to include state scope of practice. We have to be careful...the AMA went after Chiros for seeking full state scope. The goal here is to include our differential diagnosis...as this sets us apart. Ultimately, this may have to be compromised on, but we are going to see how high up the flag pole it gets, and yank it if we have to.

2. The problem with seeking cosponsors before intro is the bill can still be amended. We want to gain support while also not drawing the attention of others who have some form of acupuncture in scope and seek to insert their own amendments. There will be enough battles in the rules and regulations phase.

3. Facebook is a great way to talk to each other in a vacuum. If you want to talk to legislators directly, you are all going to have to migrate to Twitter. We will Launch the #CoverMyAcupuncturist campaign on Twitter before intro, giving your patients a chance to make short (30 seconds to 2 minutes) videos telling legislators what their ACUPUNCTURIST, not just acupuncture, does for them. These can be posted directly on their Twitter pages and are a highly effective means of influence that doesn't cost anyone anything.

4. Acupuncture On The Hill will go back each month from January until we get an intro. After that, we will combine that event with Congressional briefings that inform Legislative staff drafters of our education and skills. Each practitioner engages in

tongue and pulse diagnosis at these events before performing the service...so they are already experiencing differential diagnosis.

5. AcuCongress live training will be held in Tampa at the Atlantic Symposium, February 5-7th, 2023.

6. AcuCongress will hold a virtual fly-in around the introduction of the bill after the live training.

There's more to come...but right now I have ten days to get our amendments to the office. I appreciate everyone's patience. Just know this: there is NO ACTION you need to take for the month of October. In fact, you may not hear much from me until after the interim elections. Then we hit the ground running with draft in hand!

Thanks again everyone. You were amazing to work with! I encourage everyone to take advantage of the fall and let go, rest, recharge, and hibernate if you can. 😊 We start back up after interims starting the week after elections with a whole new slate for the 118th!