**Acupuncture Advisory Council**

Cannon Building, Suite 203

861 Silver Lake Blvd.

Dover, DE 19904

July 31, 2013

Dear Members of the Acupuncture Advisory Council:

I am writing to ask that you reconsider your June decision to deny waivers to the licensure requirements for Acupuncturists Sharon Crowell and Sue Berman. Sharon and Sue are extremely well-educated practitioners and each can show over a decade of safe acupuncture practice. They are excellent practitioners to whom I refer on a regular basis.

Although I write as a private citizen, I know from my service on a health regulatory board that the most important task of the Council is to ensure the safety of the public. While some might believe that the requirements in the Delaware legislation serve that goal, there is overwhelming evidence that the NCCAOM AC credential used by the majority of states is more than sufficient to protect the public. Additionally, the generous “grandfathering” of those who were practicing in Delaware during the 12-month period 6/27/2007 - 6/26/2008, along with an inconsistent response to the request for waivers, has created a situation in which many Delaware LAcs do not meet the requirements.

The Delaware legislation is problematic. It discriminates against the considerable percentages of acupuncture practitioners in the US who received their education and established practices prior to the introduction of the OM credential in the mid-2000’s and those who practice a tradition which excludes herbal medicine. That no practitioner has been licensed absent a waiver since June 2011 surely indicates a problem with the current requirements. While a system that depends upon waivers is less than ideal, it is a reasonable short term solution. Surely the public is not well-served by the small number of practitioners currently licensed in the state. In fact, a search for an acupuncturist in Delaware is likely to turn up more practitioners from other professions than LAcs.

It is not in the power of the Council to change the law. It is within the power of the Council to grant a waiver to Sharon Crowell and Sue Berman. They both began practice before the NCCAOM OM credential existed and practice traditions which do not use herbs. Their education and credentials surpass those of many LAcs within the state. They are a credit to the profession and would be of great service to the people of this lovely state. I can think of no legitimate reason to exclude them from practice in Delaware and I request that you grant these waivers.

Sincerely,

Elaine Wolf Komarow, LAc

cc: Gayle MacAfee