**Please Oppose New Jersey Assembly Bill 2461**

**Which Establishes a Natural Health and Vitality Task Force
 to Develop Recommendations for Legislative Action Regarding the
Education, Qualifications, Training, and Licensing of Reiki Practitioners**

1. Reiki is unfairly singled out, as it is the only spiritual practice included in the bill. The other practices the bill affects are:   chiropractors; certified personal trainers; massage therapists; acupuncture; certified clinical nutritionists; and psychologists.
2. Reiki practice has no representation on the Task Force, which is composed of the Commissioner of Health, ex officio or a designee, and eight public members who shall include at least one naturopathic practitioner, one chiropractor, one psychologist, and one nutritionist.
3. There are more than 100 different styles of Reiki.  It would be impossible for the task force to establish recommendations for education, qualifications, and training for all of them, as the only thing they may have in common is the name Reiki.
4. Based on this paragraph:

“The bill provides that the task force issue a report obtaining its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature, including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action.”

The regulatory aspect of this bill will be fraught with issues related to:

 \*  The improper definition of the scope of practice per each style of Reiki.
 \*  Lack of understanding of the differences in application for each type’s scope of
 practice when similar to another’s scope (Asian v Western)

1. This bill is the first step in the requirement of licensure for Reiki practitioners.

The bill, introduced in February 2022, is currently in the Assembly Health Committee and remains very much alive.  This legislative session does not end until December 2023.

Please contact members of the Health Committee to voice your objection to this bill.  The following link will take you to the web page of its members with their contact information: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/committees/assembly-committees>

**SAMPLE LETTER THAT YOU CAN USE TO WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATOR AND**

**NEW JERSEY HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Find My NJ Elected Official:  https://www.njlcv.org/find

Health Committee: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/committees/assembly-committees

Clerk's Office: 609-847-3115

(Month) (Day) (Year)

The Honorable (First name) (Last name)

Room ( Room #)

Street

City, State  Zip

**RE:  Opposition to Assembly Bill 2461**

Dear (Legislator/Senator) (Last name):

My name is (your first and last name) and I am a (type of practitioner) who resides in your district (or a resident of New Jersey).

(State why you oppose the bill or other issue here. Choose up to three of the strongest points that support your position and state them clearly.) (Example: I want to voice my strong opposition to Assembly Bill 2461 as it affects over 100 different types of Reiki practice that will not be fairly represented with the proposed Health and Vitality Task Force.  There is no risk of harm to the public from Reiki practice, and it would be impossible for the Task Force to establish recommendations for education, qualifications and trainings, as Reiki is a spiritual practice and the only thing the 100 or more styles may have in common is the name Reiki.

(Include a personal story. Tell your representative why the issue is important to you and how it affects you, your family member and your community.)

Please vote no on Assembly Bill 2461.  I would greatly appreciate a response.  Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue. Be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope.)

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME

Print your name

Street address

City, State, Zip code

**TIPS FOR WRITING, SENDING AN E-MAIL OR CALLING A LEGISLATOR**

**Writing a letter to a legislator**

Use the proper salutation, for example:

The Honorable (first name) (last name)

Address

City, State, Zip code

Dear (Assembly Member / Senator) (last name)

Be courteous and informative in your communication.

State the purpose of the letter in the opening sentence and if you are referring to a bill, include the bill number, author and topic. If you live in the elected official’s district be sure to say this in the opening paragraph as well.

Focus on the message and key points. Personalize the letter by including examples of how the legislation might impact you and your family. Keep the letter brief – not more than one page.

Restate your request at the end of the letter, for example urging them to support or oppose the bill. Thank the legislator for his or her support and offer to address any questions that he or she might have. Be sure to include your contact information, and sign the letter.

**Sending e-mail communication to a legislator**

The same guidelines apply to e-mail as to written letters. Before sending an e-mail, you might want to call the legislator’s office and ask if a letter sent by e-mail is effective. If you do send an e-mail, send it to the representative. Do not copy other representatives or send a mass e-mail. Make it a brief message with no special layouts or graphics. Do not include attachments. Include your full name and address so it is clear that you are a constituent, and ask for a response. You might also want to send a hard copy of your e-mail to the legislator.

**Phone calls to a legislator**

State your name and address and identify yourself as the legislator’s constituent. You will often be speaking with a secretary or aide. Briefly make known your position as they keep track of the issues that people call about to report to the legislator. Have your thoughts organized in advance, which will help you to keep the call brief and to the point. It is also very helpful to share how the issue affects you personally. Thank them for their support.