



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

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June 11, 2008

The Honorable André Bauer  
President of the Senate  
State House, First Floor, East Wing  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 799, R-344.

This bill amends the Acupuncturist Practice Act to allow the Board of Medical Examiners to decide whether or not an acupuncturist can use the title "doctor." It also specifies who may perform a certain type of acupuncture called auricular detoxification therapy.

While I believe there is great value in a more holistic approach to one's health and I recognize the value of alternatives to western medical approaches, as an Administration we still fundamentally believe in the overarching need to limit the scope of government. As you may recall, in 2004, I vetoed the Acupuncturist Practice Act (H. 3891) because we believed it was unduly burdensome and imposed unnecessary regulatory restrictions on the profession - and created yet another oversight board in South Carolina.

By allowing the Board of Medical Examiners to approve whether or not an acupuncturist can use the title "doctor," we are duplicating regulatory oversight. In this case, the state would be providing oversight by one board - over the last one (the Acupuncture Board) created only about a year ago. An acupuncturist does not work under the direct supervision of a physician, and by creating a hybrid organizational arrangement, we only further convolute our already Byzantine and overly redundant government structure. Additionally, this would be new ground that we would be covering in that the Board of Medical Examiners does not currently decide whether or not other professions (i.e., chiropractors) can use the same title.

For these reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my signature S. 799, R-344.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford