

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 304

Approved June 11, 1973

RESOLVED, that the Director of the State Department of Health is requested to consider granting permission to certified Doctors of Oriental Medicine to practice Acupuncture within the State of Rhode Island, under the supervision of Doctors of Medicine who are licensed to practice within the State of Rhode Island.

Robert J. Hayton
IN CITY COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
Vincent V. Vignone PRES.
CLERK

JUN 7 1973

APPROVED
JUN 11 1973
Joseph A. Berly
MAYOR

Cumtulan Loreng

Davis Street



Providence, R. I. 02908

JOSEPH E. CANNON, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR

18 June 1973

Mr. Vincent Vespia, City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

In reply to Resolution #304 of the City Council, approved on June 11, 1973, the following information, which is our position at the present time, might be of interest:

The subject of Acupuncture has been under review by both the Rhode Island State Board of Examiners in Medicine and the Rhode Island Medical Society. After a careful study of this matter the Board of Examiners in Medicine, at its meeting on 31 January 1973, voted to permit the practice of Acupuncture only by persons licensed to practice medicine in Rhode Island. This decision was based upon the fact that Acupuncture falls within the definition of the practice of medicine as same is defined in Section 5-37-1 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended. Also, it was the opinion of the board, that until further scientific research and study has been conducted in this area, it would be premature to permit persons other than licensed physicians to perform this procedure.

The Rhode Island Medical Society voted on 29 January 1973 that acupuncture was a medical procedure to be performed only by physicians licensed to practice medicine and surgery.

The New York State Board for Medicine in a statement dated 26 July 1972 set forth its position that acupuncture, being investigational at this time, may be practiced legally in New York State only by or under the direct supervision of a physician licensed in that state and in a medical research institution. Again on 18 November 1972 the board reiterated its earlier position and emphasized that acupuncture at this time is an experimental procedure and research in this area is limited to institutions such as medical schools or hospitals. The National Institute of Health supports the position of the New York Board, and also views acupuncture as an experimental procedure not to be performed except by the proper research setting.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration is responsible for assuring that acupuncture devices are properly labeled and in the Federal Register dated 9 March 1973 took the position that the safety and effectiveness of acupuncture devices has not yet been established by adequate scientific studies to support the many and varied uses for which such devices are being promoted. Therefore, until such evidence is obtained demonstrating

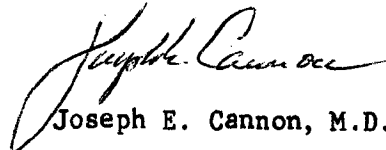
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that acupuncture is a safe and effective medical technique, the FDA holds that acupuncture devices must be limited to investigational or research use.

Therefore, from the foregoing, it would appear that the practice of acupuncture by one other than a licensed physician and for purposes other than research and experimentation is not generally permitted, and will not be until further scientific documentation by this procedure is forthcoming.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph E. Cannon".

Joseph E. Cannon, M.D.

JEC:sdr