

August 30, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 944 (Wiener) Acupuncture
Request for Signature – Los Angeles Acupuncture Clinic

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the **Los Angeles Acupuncture Clinic**, I write to you today to request your signature on SB 944 (Wiener), which enshrines acupuncture as a Medi-Cal covered benefit and ensures continuity of care for millions of Californians who rely on Medi-Cal for their health needs.

Acupuncture is a vital, evidence-based healthcare service that supports pain management, addiction recovery, mental health treatment, and relief from side effects of chemotherapy, among many other conditions. It offers a cost-effective and low-risk treatment option that can reduce reliance on prescription medication and invasive therapies, particularly for sensitive populations such as adolescents, pregnant individuals, and older adults.

Despite its proven medical benefits and recognition as an Essential Health Benefit under California law, acupuncture remains the only Medi-Cal optional benefit still tied to the availability of matching federal funds. This creates unnecessary instability in access to care for Medi-Cal enrollees.

SB 944 provides a simple and just solution which is removing outdated statutory language that conditions Medi-Cal acupuncture coverage on federal funding. By ensuring acupuncture remains a guaranteed Medi-Cal benefit regardless of federal changes, this bill protects access to safe, cost-effective care for California's most vulnerable patients.

Acupuncture's inclusion as a permanent Medi-Cal benefit aligns it with other essential health services like physical therapy, mental health care, and pharmacy services, reinforcing California's commitment to equitable healthcare.

For these reasons, **Los Angeles Acupuncture Clinic** requests your signature on SB 944 (Wiener). Thank you for your support of the acupuncture community.

Sincerely,

John Lee
CEO
Los Angeles Acupuncture Clinic