



January 18, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Office of Proclamations
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)[®] and its more than 18,000 certified Diplomates throughout the United States, I write to you today to request your assistance in recognizing October 24th as National Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM) Day.

According to the 2012 National Health Statistics Reports from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) at the National Institutes of Health, 38% of adults in the United States are using some form of complementary and alternative medicine and a 2009 report by the NCCIH, formerly the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), declared that Americans spent \$33.9 billion out-of-pocket over the previous 12 months on complementary and alternative medicine to include acupuncture and Oriental medicine. These national statistics, coupled with studies measuring the success of Oriental medicine for treating medical conditions like arthritis, clearly demonstrates that there is a need to promote public awareness of the proven benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

In addition, new research is giving pain sufferers a dose of good news. Acupuncture use is growing every year with many turning to acupuncture for relief of pain instead of harmful opioids. With concerns mounting about the prevalence of opioid use and abuse in the U.S., a new study validates the effectiveness of acupuncture and other non-drug health therapies for pain.

The National Institute of Health's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health compiled evidence on how complementary health therapies – including acupuncture, yoga, tai chi, massage therapy and relaxation techniques – are effective in treating chronic pain. The study showed that acupuncture in combination with yoga is the most effective therapy for back pain and acupuncture with tai chi is the most effective treatment for osteoarthritis pain in the knee.



The Honorable Donald Trump
AOM Day Proclamation
September 18, 2017

This year has also been a banner year for acupuncturists as the Joint Commission introduced a revised pain assessment and management standards, for accredited hospitals, to include use of non-pharmacologic treatments and strategies, including acupuncture as one option, by licensed independent practitioners.

As we have a lot to celebrate this year, this AOM Day will also mark the 15th Anniversary of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day. In 2002, NCCAOM and our collaborating partners launched the first national awareness day dedicated to educating the public about the progress, promise and benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Since its launch, official proclamations have been issued by the Governors of several states including Delaware, Hawaii, New Jersey, New Mexico and Tennessee, as well as by local leaders in Austin, Texas; Boston and Watertown, Massachusetts; Cherry Hill, New Jersey; and Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day is also supported through a unique international partnership of organizations including the United States, Canada, Mexico and Pakistan. The partnership includes professional associations, research organizations and educational institutions.

The NCCAOM, established in 1982, is a national, non-profit organization whose mission is “*To establish and promote national standards of competence by utilizing evidence-based credentialing to assure the safety and well-being of the public and advance the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine*”. Currently, 45 states plus the District of Columbia require the passing of the NCCAOM examination process as a licensure requirement to practice acupuncture and Oriental medicine. A Presidential Proclamation declaring October 24 as Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day will provide a platform for the efforts of our national campaign to escalate the dialogue about the proper use and benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and have attached a sample proclamation to assist you. If you have any questions, or would like further information about Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day or NCCAOM, please contact me at kwardcook@thennccaom.org or (904) 674-2501. Also, you are welcome to visit the campaign web site at www.aomday.org or the NCCAOM website at www.nccaom.org.

We would be delighted if you were able to approve our request and provide a copy of the proclamation for release. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Kory Ward-Cook, Ph.D., MT(ASCP), CAE
Chief Executive Officer



Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day 2017

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Millions of Americans visit acupuncturists and Oriental medicine practitioners each year for the treatment of ailments as well as for preventative care. Acupuncture and Oriental medicine has a long and rich history as components of a comprehensive traditional medical system that has been used for thousands of years to diagnose and treat illness, prevent disease and improve well being.

In the midst of the current national healthcare dialogue, my Administration is committed to funding vital, evidence-based research on preventative medicine and thus, educating the public about seeking the benefits of healthcare practices that have proven to be effective for preventative care. Currently, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is sponsoring a record number of clinical trials related to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) to include acupuncture and Oriental medicine. NIH's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) has allocated to spend more than \$122 million in research this year, which remains at an historic high for funding of CAM research, research training and information dissemination. This research will support my Administration's commitment to find viable options for Americans seeking effective and affordable healthcare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America do hereby proclaim October 24th as Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators and all people of the United States to reaffirm our Nation's strong and continuing commitment to quality health care.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this XX day of XX, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

DONALD J. TRUMP