

Tai Sophia Institute Poised to Lead Integrative Health Initiatives in Affordable Care Act

Laurel, MD — The landmark Supreme Court decision to affirm the Affordable Care Act will allow the transformation of health care from a system focused on disease to a system focused on prevention and wellness, and Tai Sophia Institute in Laurel, Maryland is perfectly positioned to lead the way.

“For nearly 40 years, Tai Sophia has been a pioneer in offering integrative health and wellness graduate degrees and clinical services,” says President and CEO Frank Vitale. “The underlying philosophy that is taught in our academic programs and practiced here every day emphasizes shared responsibility between patients and healthcare providers, lifestyle adjustments for the prevention of illness, and the use of integrative medicine to heal. We are thrilled that President Obama supports and the Supreme Court affirms this approach.”

Areas of the Affordable Care Act that address wellness and integrative health:

- Mandates the inclusion of integrative practitioners on an Advisory Group for the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council (Section 4001)
- Specifically allows for licensed complementary and alternative medicine to be included in team care models for Patient-Centered Medical Homes (Section 3502)
- Ensures that state-licensed integrative health practitioners are in the leadership of the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute research initiative (Section 6301)
- National Healthcare Workforce Commission requires forecasters to include acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners, naturopathic doctors, chiropractors, and other integrative health practitioners (Section 5101)
- Non-Discrimination in Health Care section of the law requires insurance plans that cover services of a medical doctor to also cover such services if provided by another type of provider whose license allows them to perform the service (Section 2706)
- Emergence of accountable care organizations under the Act will favor more integrative health approaches

The national movement toward an integrative model will fundamentally shift the way Americans think about and control their health, individually and as a society. The Tai Sophia Institute supports this bold direction and is poised to play a key role in education, advocacy, and treatment.

About Tai Sophia Institute

Founded in 1974, Tai Sophia Institute, (<http://www.tai.edu>), is a private, nonprofit, academic institution focused on integrative health and wellness. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Institute offers graduate degrees and certificates in a wide range of health and wellness fields including acupuncture and Oriental medicine, integrative nutrition, health and wellness coaching, and herbal medicine.