

March 26, 2007

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
Bill #1448**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Janet Levy and I reside in Woodbridge, Connecticut. I am here to support bill # 1448.

Five years ago, I went to a chiropractor. After what he told me was a simple and safe adjustment, he tore my left artery. I ended up having a stroke and emergency brain surgery to remove a blood clot in my cerebellum. After 6 weeks in hospitals, I went home to try to get some semblance of my life back. I was told that I probably would never be able to walk normally again and certainly not without the use of a quad cane. Back at home, my husband hired occupational, physical and aqua therapists, beyond the 3 months that my insurance helped pay for. He bought lots of expensive exercise equipment and hired someone to help me dress and bathe. After almost two years of spending nearly 7 hours every day exercising, I got most of my life back.

During this time and certainly for months afterwards, I found out that what had happened to me was NOT an isolated incident. There appeared to be tons of information, articles and studies on the internet directly relating the incidence of stroke to chiropractic spinal and cervical manipulation. I found out that there were also a number of support, and informative groups around the country that consisted of hundreds of victims who were suffering from the effects of a chiropractic manipulation or who had died from one. I never, ever knew that a chiropractic manipulation could cause a stroke or even have risks at all. The only thing I had ever read about them was that chiropractic manipulations were a SAFE, INEXPENSIVE and NATURAL alternative to medical science.

Risks of chiropractic manipulation have been discussed for years in almost every medical journal, not only here in the United States, but also in Canada, Ireland, Australia, U.K. Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Malaysia and Spain.

With the passage of Bill # 1448, the citizens of Connecticut will be able to check out not only a specific chiropractor, but also other healthcare providers' education, post graduate training, as well as malpractice claims and settlements and prior felony convictions. This information is vital in protecting our families from irresponsible health care providers.

Today, residents of Connecticut are able to look up the same information on the internet, which Bill # 1448 is proposing, for any licensed medical doctor and/or homeopathic physician. It should be the same for other healthcare providers as well, especially for those physicians in alternative healthcare. Considering the public's increasing thirst for inexpensive, alternative care over the past decade, which is advertised as safe and natural yet so little real information exists.

I truly believe that the passage of Bill # 1448 will not only save some people from possibly making bad healthcare choices but will also save insurance companies from having to support the uninformed, needlessly, injured victim. Bill # 1448 will not of course, be a "cure-all" to prevent irresponsible healthcare, but it sure would be a good place to start.

Since I am unable to be there in person today to testify, I appreciate your time in reading what I have to say. I hope you will support Bill # 1448. Thank you.