

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 senate bill 483 which is an Act promoting patient safety by extending the State Physician Profile..

Five years ago, I went to a chiropractor because I had gotten a stiff neck from sleeping on a new pillow. The chiropractor did what he told me was a completely safe adjustment on my neck. The next day, I had gotten this terrible headache and got so dizzy and weak ..I was unable to move and I began vomiting. This lasted for about an hour and then all of a sudden I felt okay again...just very weak.

The next day, the chiropractor had already scheduled me in for another appointment so I told him what had happened to me the night before. I also told him that I spent the night looking up things on the internet and that I was looking up my symptoms and I wondered if I could have had a stroke or TIA, which is like a ministroke that often precedes a major one.

The chiropractor kept saying " no, you are fine..you just had a reaction to the adjustment. Many people have such a reaction. You'll be just fine in a week. Trust me."

I then asked if I should go to the hospital to get checked out. He said " Look, I am a doctor , if I thought that there was something wrong with you I would tell you. You'll be fine. Needless to say, the next day, I was being rushed into the hospital, had a major stroke and emergency brain surgery. After six weeks in hospitals, and two years of expensive care and therapy almost 7 hours every day, I was able to get most of my life back.

I found out that what 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 manipulation. I found out that there were also hundreds of young victims who were suffering as a direct result of the chiropractic adjustment. I never knew that a chiropractic adjustment could cause a stroke or even have any risks at all.

If his educational information was available at the time and I could have found out that he was not a medical doctor but rather he had a doctorate of chiropractic, I would have gone to a hospital and sought medical care which probably would have saved me from having suffered for almost two full years.

Residents of CT are able to look up information on all licensed physicians in CT on the DPH's web-site. But you can't for chiropractors even though they are able to, by law, refer to themselves as physicians . In this day and age of information available at our fingertips, I believe that the passage of bill 483 will not only save people from making bad health care choices but will also save insurance companies from having to support the uninformed, needlessly injured victim.

I hope that you will support bill #483 .