

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING - SENATE BILL 483

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Mathew Levy and I live in Woodbridge, Connecticut and I am currently a junior in high school. I am testifying in support of senate bill 483 which is an **Act promoting patient safety and access to provide information by extending the State Physician Profile to certain other healthcare providers.**

I came up here today to testify in support of this bill because of the importance of this issue. In 2002, my mother was severely injured by a chiropractic manipulation. She went to a chiropractor for a simple shoulder pain and we almost lost her forever. The chiropractor had torn an artery in her neck which resulted in her having a stroke. I will never forget the day when I was in the hospital with my Dad and my brother and we had to say goodbye to my Mom as she was wheeled away into surgery. I was taken home by my Mom's best friend and on the way home I asked Laurie if my Mom was going to be alright. When she started to cry, it hit me that I may never see my Mom alive again. I will never forget that day.

For the past 3 ½ years, I have witnessed the emotional turmoil that this issue has caused so many other people, all because of a chiropractic adjustment. All these stories that I have personally read all said the same thing: They had gone to a chiropractor for a simple ailment that probably could have diminished with time, but instead they thought that they would try chiropractic because they had read all their ads saying that they were safe and that they could help with all sorts of pains and afflictions. They had no idea that a chiropractor could forever change their lives by permanently damaging them or even killing them. A simple chiropractic adjustment has killed people and I have personally read their stories and have seen some of their death certificates attributing their unnecessary deaths to a chiropractic manipulation.

This bill is so important because of the effect that the computer has had on the modern world. As a 16 year old, I have grown up with the internet being the most valuable resource for information, and most everyone of all ages is shifting towards this technology. I know that if my generation has a question about anything they go straight to the internet to find the answers.

The way that the physicians profile is set up now is that it claims to include all licensed physicians. Most people would automatically assume that chiropractors were included in this list since they are considered physicians by the State of Connecticut. But when they don't show up on that list the immediate assumption is that Chiropractors have no need to be on the list and they are safe. I have learned that this is not the truth. I have personally talked to many victims who were left paralyzed by a chiropractic adjustment. The possibility of injury needs to be made public. And I believe that one of the first and most significant steps would be to include their profession on the Department of Public Health's website of physician's profiles. We have a right to know all kinds of information regarding any and all healthcare providers; we just need to be provided the access to it, especially when there might be a serious risk.

Before 3 ½ year ago, I did not know that to become a chiropractor you only needed a 2.0 – 2.5 grade point average. Nor did I know that chiropractors have no medical training in any hospital. Nor did I know that chiropractors can seriously injure anyone. This information should be provided as almost everything else is on the internet. The greater importance of the internet today makes this bill vital, as there is a great need for all information to be available online. People will be able will use this information to make their own educated decisions on what risks are too much, and then hopefully be able to avoid unnecessary harm.

In a society where a coffee cup says "Caution, Hot, May Cause Burns", I cannot see any plausible objections to this bill. Please support Senate bill # 283. Thank you.