

Statement of Deb Anastasio, N.D.
before the
Public Health Committee
in support of HB 5701
March 3, 2008

Sen. Handley, Rep. Sayers and members of the committee:

My name is Deborah Anastasio. I am a Naturopathic Doctor, practice in Cheshire and serve as the legislative committee chair of the Connecticut Naturopathic Physicians Association. I am representing the organization today to offer comments about an amendment to House Bill 5701, *An Act Concerning Revisions to Statutes Pertaining to the Department of Public Health*.

As we have discussed with a number of you, the CNPA would like to enact a law to require all licensed Naturopaths to undertake fifteen hours of continuing education a year. Let me tell you a little bit about our profession:

- Naturopathy is the science, art and practice by natural methods. We are a licensed profession in the state and are considered to be part of the healing arts.
- We have a state board of examiners in statute and are graduates of a college or scientific school. There is a College of Naturopathy right here in Connecticut at the University of Bridgeport.
- Our education is comprised of the following course work: anatomy, physiology, histology, psychology, chemistry, hygiene, public health, dietetics, jurisprudence, naturopathic pathology, diagnosis and theory and practice of naturopathy.
- Naturopaths are required by statute to have liability insurance.

CNPA would request that you include the continuing education requirement in HB 5701.

We have provided the co-chairs with proposed language to govern the continuing education program and requirement, and have worked closely with the Department of Public Health in its development. Under the proposal, Naturopaths will need to complete 15 hours of continuing education a year.

Individual Naturopaths will be responsible for meeting this requirement and maintaining proof of this fact if asked when they seek renewal of their licenses. All recordkeeping will be in the hands of Naturopaths —there will be no cost to the state of this initiative.

Naturopathic Doctors play an integral role in the delivery of health care services in Connecticut. Our members routinely engage in continuing education courses so that they can stay on the cutting edge of developments in the health care field. To facilitate this, we urge you to add a continuing education requirement to HB 5701. Our members are excited about this possibility and I assure you they will implement it with effectiveness. Thank you.