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Good morning. My name is Dr. Carol S. Weeks. I am a chiropractor with a full time practice in Rocky Hill and currently hold the position of Treasurer for the Connecticut Chiropractic Association. I am also a student at the University of Bridgeport Acupuncture Institute. I wish to address HB 6266, An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture.

In the state of Connecticut, Doctors of Chiropractic are considered to be a primary portal of entry physician. As a first professional degree, Doctor of Chiropractic is a category shared by other health care professions including medicine (MD), optometry (OD), osteopathy (DO), dentistry (DDS) and naturopathy (ND). Admission to an accredited chiropractic college requires at least 90 hours of undergraduate study. After completion of the four year professional training program the successful student is awarded a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. At the University of Bridgeport College of Chiropractic, the four year program requires 5148 hours of study. According to the State of Connecticut's Legal Definition of the scope of practice of chiropractic, Ch. 372, Sec. 20-28, the chiropractic physician may "treat the human body my manual, mechanical, electrical or natural methods, including acupuncture."

Doctors of Chiropractic who practice acupuncture in Connecticut must take additional post graduate training in acupuncture. Most programs provide at least 150 or more hours of training. Courses include but are not limited to: Oriental Theory and History of Acupuncture; Acupuncture Theory; Meridian Theory and Meridian Points; Needling Techniques; Diagnostic Techniques; Acupuncture for the Treatment of the Respiratory, Digestive and Genitourinary Disorders; Treatment of Emotional and Psychological Health; Treatment of Pain; Chinese Herbal Medicine and Nutrition. Doctors also receive training in clean needle technique which includes proper setting up of a clean field, proper handling of needles to maintain a clean field and the proper disposal and cleaning of contaminated equipment.

Doctors of Chiropractic who practice acupuncture may use acupuncture in a variety of ways. Acupuncture may be used as an adjunct therapy while treating a chiropractic patient. Acupuncture theory may be used to acquire additional diagnostic information about a patient in order to enhance the chiropractic treatment. Doctors of Chiropractic who practice acupuncture also treat patients with a wide variety of disorders with only acupuncture. Patients with disorders such as headache, menstrual irregularities , menopause symptoms, digestive problems, asthma, anxiety and depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, peripheral neuropathy, skin conditions, vertigo and symptoms associated with sexual abuse are treated everyday with acupuncture by Doctors of Chiropractic. Our practice should not be limited to only treatment of pain or pain

associated with musculoskeletal conditions such as sciatica, disc herniation or degeneration.

As both a Doctor of Chiropractic who practices acupuncture and an Acupuncture student, I find my original post graduate training in acupuncture prepared me very well to practice acupuncture as a chiropractor and to provide high quality acupuncture diagnosis and treatment to my patients. I ask you to consider that Doctors of Chiropractic who also practice acupuncture provide a valuable service to our patients. Thank you for your consideration.