



**Statement of Francis J. Vesce, DC**

**On behalf of the**

**Connecticut Chiropractic Association**

**Before the**

**Committee on Public Health**

**HB 6266 – An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture**

**February 6, 2009**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr Francis J. Vesce. I am a practicing chiropractor in New Britain and currently serve as the Second Vice-President of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association. I incorporate acupuncture in my practice and wish to address **HB 6266 An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture**.

In the State of Connecticut, the Doctor of Chiropractic is considered a primary portal of entry physician. The Doctor of Chiropractic is a first professional degree, a category shared by several other health professions, including medicine (M.D.), pharmacy (Pharm. D.), optometry (O.D.), and dentistry (D.D.S.). After at least three years of undergraduate education, students admitted to accredited chiropractic colleges earn the D.C. degree after successful completion of the four year professional training program (totaling nearly 4600 hours). This prepares the graduate to diagnose most of the conditions encountered by primary care physicians and to treat or co-treat many of those conditions. 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 by manual, mechanical, electrical or natural methods, **including acupuncture**" (emphasis added).

Connecticut chiropractors who practice acupuncture have 150+ hours of post-graduate training. These courses consist of, but are not limited to: Clinical Fundamentals, Herbal Medicine and Nutrition, Acupuncture Treatment of the Lower Back and Body, Acupuncture Treatment for Upper Body, Respiratory, Digestive, and Genitourinary Disorders, and Emotional/Psychological Health. Doctors also receive training in clean needle technique as well as the proper disposal/sterilization of equipment.

Chiropractors utilizing acupuncture treat a patient's complaints from a combined chiropractic-acupuncture perspective. Treatment may include, but is not limited to headaches (migraine, tension, menstrual, etc.), pain associated with musculoskeletal conditions (sciatica, disc herniation, disc degeneration, sprain/strain, etc.), menstrual irregularities, respiratory conditions, sinus / allergy conditions, and digestive disorders.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to consider that chiropractic physicians certified in acupuncture are very capable and competent in the broad scope application of acupuncture. We do not oppose this measure provided it does not infringe upon the ability of chiropractic physicians to continue to utilize acupuncture within the full scope of our licensure.