

February 2, 2009

Senator Jonathan Harris and Representative Elizabeth Ritter
Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Ritter,

As a Connecticut registered voter and public health researcher, I am writing to express my support for the present legislation that ensures title protection for Licensed Acupuncturists (House Bill # 6266). I believe it is important to bring the profession of acupuncture in line with other licensed professional healthcare providers in our state and this legislation will do that.

Since the 1970's, acupuncture has been increasingly recognized by the medical and public health communities, as well as by the general public, as an important, safe, and effective treatment option. The high standards of Acupuncturists are maintained through the strict regulation of acupuncture as prescribed and protected by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) standards of certification and nationwide legislation. The curriculum of accredited acupuncture schools in the United States include is rigorous and comprehensive. Licensed Acupuncturists go through an extensive and difficult four-year training to ensure the highest level of health care, safety and service to patients. Unfortunately, there is no NCCAOM oversight for the other healthcare professions in CT that are all allowed to practice acupuncture in the state.

This legislation is important because it will bar other professions from representing themselves as Licensed Acupuncturists and it will allow the public to choose, with confidence, practitioners that have received the highest standards of education and oversight.

I ask you to please support House Bill 6266 and the amendments to the present legislation supported by the Connecticut Society for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM), in order to maintain the highest quality of Acupuncture services and protect and benefit the healthcare consumer in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Peter Guarino, MPH, PhD
Biostatistician and Epidemiologist
Yale University and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs
122 Court St. Unit 7
New Haven, CT 06511