

Senator Jonathan Harris  
Representative Elizabeth Ritter  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB 6266 An Act Concerning Acupuncture

Madam Chair, Mister Chairman and members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am Regina Walsh, a Licensed Acupuncturist from New Canaan and a Board Member of the Connecticut Society for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (csaom.org). I am supporting HIB 6266 regarding Acupuncture Title Protection. I've been

practicing in Connecticut for 10 years. I was Nationally Board Certified in acupuncture in 1994 after a rigorous 3 years of acupuncture education earning a Masters in Acupuncture. In the beginning years of my practice I apprenticed with two senior acupuncturists taking monthly classes for several years. I take continuing education classes yearly to deepen my knowledge. Mastery of this medicine is a life-long pursuit that I fully enjoy.

I am here to ask you to help us ensure the residents of CT receive the best care available to them. Unfortunately, there are no legal requirements or oversight by the National Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine for the other healthcare professions in CT which are allowed to practice acupuncture. This is extremely important legislation because it prevents other professions from representing themselves as if they have the same amount of education and oversight as Licensed Acupuncturists.

For the past 10 years I volunteered on the Board of Directors of two national membership organizations whose mission is *To promote excellence and integrity in the professional practice of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, in order to enhance public health and well being.* (aaaomonline.org)

Practicing acupuncture is my life's passion and commitment to a service of the highest standard. I am honored to call myself a Licensed Acupuncturist, an honor that comes from a 5000 year history of Oriental Medicine, passed on to me by a 30 year history in this country of teachers and institutions of learning committed to excellence.

The bottom line is, I want people to clearly understand they have a choice of a Licensed Acupuncturist or someone with less training. I am asking you to support the amendments to the present legislation to provide consumer protection.

Thank you very much,



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