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Senator Jonathan Harris
Representative Elizabeth Ritter
Public Health Committee

Hello Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Christine Rizzo, I am from New London and I am speaking IN SUPPORT of bill number 6266 An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture

I have a master's degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine. I am a Licensed Acupuncturist and a Certified Herbalist. I currently have a private practice in Old Saybrook. I am a member of the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

Nine years ago I entered a field of medicine that was still struggling for recognition. I did this because I believed, as a matter of common sense, in a form of medicine that is still being practiced today - more than 3000 years after its known origins - by one of the largest populations on our planet. Acupuncture is a vast part of an enormous body of accumulated knowledge.

I accumulated more than 3400 hours attaining my master's degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine and since graduating I have continuously studied with scholars of Chinese medicine, themselves in practice for more than 20 years. And I know, there is still more to learn and more depth to discover. I treasure my teachers, my education and my training. Especially now as I watch my profession finally begin to gain the recognition I knew it would, nine years ago when I started on this path. This month marks my fifth year in practice.

Since beginning my practice I have seen acupuncture become a large and growing part of integrated medicine. I have seen a growing demand for acupuncturists at doctors' offices, out patient facilities, and in hospitals. The number of acupuncturists is growing in response to this demand. This bill, title protection for Acupuncturists, it is common sense, a basic part of a professional licensure. It is necessary for a field of medicine like mine, one that is maturing and becoming an integrated part of healthcare in this state and throughout the country. It is my hope that you will adopt this bill and allow my profession to find its way as such.

Thank you.

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