



Public Protection Through Quality Credentials

February 4, 2009

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

Good afternoon. I am Betsy Smith, Deputy Director of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). I am here today to speak on behalf of the NCCAOM in support of House Bill # 6266 that would ensure title protection for acupuncturists in the State of Connecticut.

Our organization has developed a set of verified, entry-level standards for the safe and competent practice of acupuncture, including three separate examinations. We offer the only nationally recognized examination/certification program in acupuncture and we are in continuous contact with state regulatory boards throughout the United States. At present 95% of the states that regulate acupuncture require the NCCAOM examinations for licensure.

In almost every regulated state, initial legislation includes title protection. Title protection is a normal component of the laws of healthcare practices including medical doctors, chiropractors, nurses, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals. It is clearly against the law to utilize a medical title if national standards required by the profession have not been met. This protection should cover acupuncturists as well. The extent of their knowledge and education sets them apart even from those who have the right to use acupuncture in their practices. For example, in order to qualify for NCCAOM certification, applicants must meet extensive academic and practical standards. The following is a summary of the requirements that applicants for Certification in Acupuncture are required to meet:

- Graduate from a full-time Masters program that is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). ACAOM is the only agency accredited for this purpose by the United States Department of Education.
- Complete a minimum of 1,905 hours of education which represents three years of formal education including 660 hours of clinical training as well as 450 hours in biomedical clinical sciences.
- Pass three examinations including biomedicine. The biomedicine examination ensures that the acupuncturist has the knowledge to understand when to refer a patient to a doctor or other healthcare practitioner for a diagnostic

evaluation. In addition, it allows acupuncturists to converse knowledgeably with western medical practitioners.

We consider these standards of eligibility to be the minimum requirements for the safe practice of acupuncture. The practice of acupuncture is more than merely placing needles at various points for different conditions. Assurance of safe and effective therapeutic outcomes from acupuncture treatments rely on having a practitioner who is applying a system of functional medicine that uses a diagnostic and treatment approach that is significantly different from existing Western medicine practice. It is from such a knowledge base that acupuncture's full efficacy and value can be realized by the public.

The right of the healthcare consumer to get what they are expecting in terms of training and education in healthcare should be ensured, and that includes acupuncture, along with every other healthcare practice. This bill will not prevent other healthcare practitioners whose scope includes acupuncture from using it as one of their modalities; however, it does offer protection to healthcare consumers seeking the services of someone who is licensed as an acupuncturist in Connecticut. It helps to prevent those who do not meet recognized national standards for education and examination from being confused with those who do.

Bill #6266 amends the original legislation to be in line with title protection routinely accepted in other forms of health practice in Connecticut. In addition, Bill #6266 as written includes language that protects the right of other healthcare practitioners to use acupuncture as allowed by their scope of practice. This correction to the original legislation will bring acupuncture in line with other healthcare practices as currently regulated and it ensures that acupunctures' full efficacy and value can be realized by the public.

Thank you for your time and attention. If I can answer any questions you may have, please contact me by email at bsmith@nccaom.org, or by phone at 904-674-2467.

Sincerely,



Betsy P. Smith
Deputy Director

Governing Regulatory Agencies

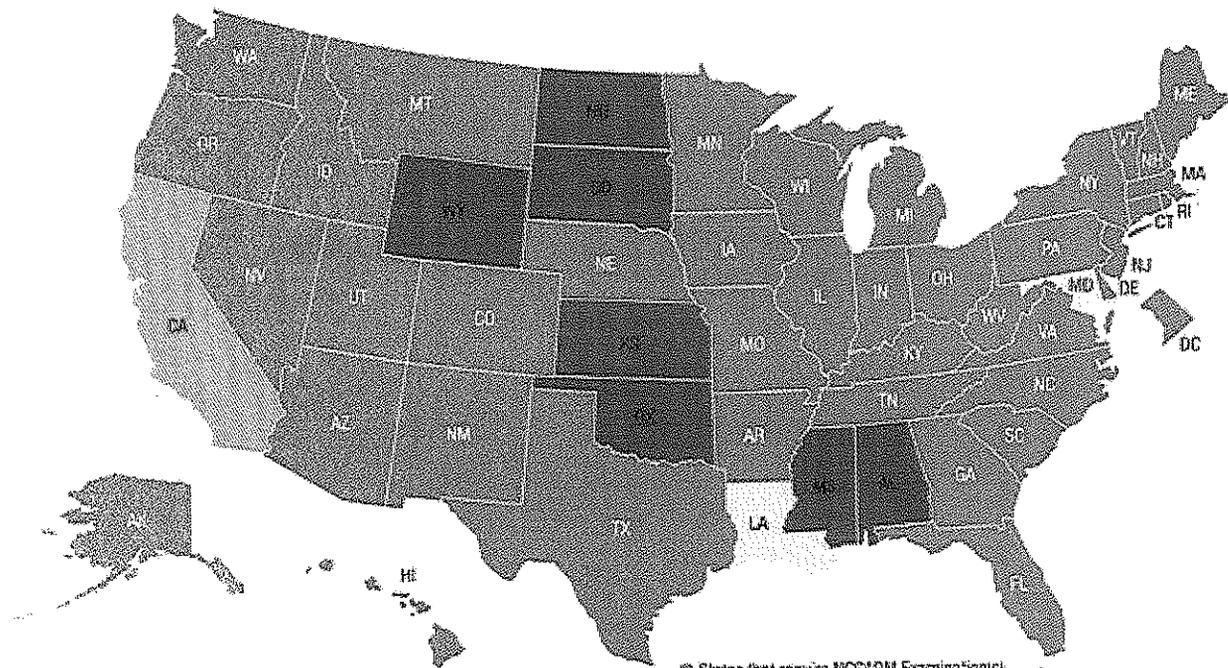
State	Type of Regulatory Agency	Type of Regulatory Agency 2	Regulatory Agency Name	Additional Regulatory Agency Name	Practice Act Requirement	Requires NCCAOM Certification	Website
AL	None	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A
AK	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Department of Commerce & Economic Development	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/oc/acup.htm
AZ	Independent Board	N/A	Arizona Board of Acupuncture Examiners	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.azacuboard.az.gov/
AR	Independent Board	N/A	Arkansas State Board of Acupuncture & Related Techniques	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.asbart.org/
CA	Independent Board	N/A	California Acupuncture Board	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov/
CO	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Dept of Regulatory Agencies - Office of Acupuncture	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.dora.state.co.us/
CT	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Department of Public Health, Acupuncturist License Board of Medical Practice	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp
DE	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Medical Quality Assurance, Board of Acupuncture	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/index.html
FL	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Composite State Board of Medical Examiners	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/62/csmo/home
GA	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs	N/A	Yes	No	http://hawaii.gov/dccareas/pvl
HI	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Iddio State Board of Acupuncture	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.idpr.com/dpr/default.asp
ID	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Illinois Department of Professional Regulation	Joint Committee on Administrative Rules	Yes	No	http://www.in.gov/pia/acupuncture.htm
IL	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Professional Licensing Agency	Indiana Acupuncture Advisory Committee	Yes	Yes	http://medicalboard.iowa.gov/AcupLic.html
IN	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Iowa Board of Medicine, Acupuncture License	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.ksbja.org/
IO	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Kansas State Board of Healing Arts	N/A	No	No	http://kbrml.ky.gov/
KS	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Kentucky Board of Medical Examiners	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.louisiana.gov/acupuncture.htm
KY	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners	N/A	Yes	No	www.state.me.us/pr/professionallicensing/index
LA	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Maine Dept. of Professional and Financial Reg.	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://dmh.state.md.us/bac/
ME	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Manlyand State Board of Acupuncture	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.massmedboard.org/acupuncture/
MD	Independent Board	N/A	Board of Registration in Medicine	Committee on Acupuncture	Yes	Yes	http://www.michiganacupuncture.org/
MA	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Michigan Association of Acupuncturists and OM	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.state.nm.us
MI	Independent Board	N/A	Minnesota Board of Medical Practice	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
MN	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Missouri Division of Professional Registration	Missouri Acupuncturist Advisory Cmte	No	No	N/A
MS	None	N/A	Montana Board of Medical Examiners	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://pr.mo.gov/acupuncturist.asp
MO	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services	N/A	Yes	No	http://mi.gov/
MT	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Nevada State Board of Oriental Medicine	N/A	Yes	No	http://oriental_medicine.state.nv.us/
NB	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	New Hampshire Board of Acupuncture Licensing	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.nh.gov/acupuncture/board.htm
ND	Independent Board	N/A	New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners	Acupuncture Examining Board	Yes	No	http://www.state.nj.us/njbac/acupuncturist/
NH	Independent Board	N/A	New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department	Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine	Yes	No	http://www.rfd.state.nm.us/acupuncture/index.html
NJ	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	New York State Education Department, Office of Pro	Division of Professional Licensing Services	Yes	No	http://www.opl.nyc.gov/acup.htm
NM	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	North Carolina Acupuncture Licensing Board	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.ncalib.com/
NY	Other Regulatory Agencies	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A
NC	Independent Board	N/A	State Medical Board of Ohio	Acupuncture Advisory Committee	Yes	Yes	http://med.ohio.gov/ACUsubwebindex.htm
ND	None	N/A	Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure	N/A	No	No	http://www.dohis.state.ok.us/
OH	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Oregon Medical Board	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.oregon.gov/OMB/
OK	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.dos.state.pa.us/pical/site/default.asp
OR	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Rhode Island Department of Health	Office of Health Professionals Regulation	Yes	Yes	http://www.health.state.rhodeisland.gov/professionals/
PA	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	South Carolina Dept of Labor, Licensing & Reglialt	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.lrl.state.sc.us/PCOLMedical/
RI	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A
SC	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Tennessee Department of Health	Advisory Committee for Acupuncture	Yes	Yes	http://health.state.tn.us/providers.htm
SD	None	N/A	Texas Medical Board	Healthcare Professionals - Acupuncturists Licensed Acupuncturist	Yes	No	http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/professionals/
TN	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Lic	Acupuncture Advisory Board	Yes	Yes	http://www.dph.utah.gov/licensing/
TX	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Vermont Office of Professional Regulation	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.dph.state.va.us/medicare/
UT	Other Regulatory Agencies	N/A	Virginia Board of Medicine	N/A	Yes	Yes	http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/
VT	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	Washington State Department of Health	N/A	Yes	No	http://pplia.doh.wa.gov/pplia/site/default.asp
VA	Other Regulatory Agency	Advisory Committee	Health Professionals Licensing Administration	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.wv.state.wv.us/acupuncture/
WA	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	West Virginia Board of Acupuncture	N/A	Yes	No	http://www.wv.state.wv.us/acupuncture/
WA D.C.	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	State of Wisconsin Dept of Regulation & Licensing	N/A	Yes	No	http://drl.wi.gov/boards/index.htm
WV	Independent Board	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A
WI	Other Regulatory Agency	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A
WY	None	N/A	None	N/A	No	No	N/A



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January 2009

States Using NCCAOM Examinations for Acupuncture Licensure



- States that require NCCAOM Examinations
- States that accept NCCAOM Examinations
- ▨ State Examination only
- States without a Practice Regulating Acupuncture

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