

Statement of Gina Carucci, D.C.  
before the  
Public Health Committee  
Senate Bill 678  
March 16, 2009

Sen. Harris, Rep. Ritter and members of the committee:

I am Gina Carucci, a Chiropractic Physician practicing in the Greater Hartford area. I also serve as legislative committee chair for the Connecticut Chiropractic Association and am representing that organization here today in support of Section 2 of Senate Bill 678, *An Act Concerning Health Care Cost Containment*.

Section 2 relates to "shared decision making," a patient/provider model that is gaining credibility and interest throughout the United States. I want to note Rep. Peggy Sayers' keen interest in this concept, and we thank her for taking the lead in promoting it in legislation this session.

Lines 38-151 address the concept of shared decision making. Very basically, this model brings the patient and the health care provider together to discuss and mutually agree on the treatment program that will be undertaken. A "Patient Decision Aid" is a key part of the strategy—providing balanced information on an illness and treatment—that can be available on-line or by video.

A consent form is also part of the process that contains such elements as: the nature of the proposed treatments, possible alternatives to the treatment, and a statement informing the patient of actions he or she should take in the event of complications.

The "shared decision making" concept is worthy of your consideration. It would set up ground rules that all practitioners—and patients—would operate within. The rules would be known to everyone and they would be applied uniformly to all professions. The Connecticut Chiropractic Association supports this concept.

We recognize that the bill is not mandating that the shared decision making concept be used at this point in time. But, at least the concept is discussed and, by this bill, available for use, and promoted, if enacted into statute.

A demonstration project is authorized under the bill that would be administered by the Department of Social Services and the state Comptroller. We support the demo project—but would suggest that the better entity to oversee this would be the Department of Public Health, since they regulate and license all practitioners.

Thank you for considering this concept. The Connecticut Chiropractic Association is in full support of it. Thank you.