



HB
5009

Senator Crisco and Representative Fontana and members of the Committee:

My name is Stacey Munro. I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Windsor, Connecticut. I am offering written comments today on two bills on behalf of the Connecticut Naturopathic Physician Association (CNPA).

Naturopathic physicians believe that prevention is the best medicine. We feel that many of the chronic health conditions plaguing Americans benefit from early diagnosis and treatment. Naturopathic physicians screen all patients for the presence of early risk factors for disease. We also provide lifestyle education and other natural treatments to prevent, treat, and sometimes reverse chronic diseases like type II diabetes, heart disease, and osteoporosis. This can result in long-term savings for both the patient and health care organizations.

1) Senate Bill 14, Act Prohibiting Co-Payments for Preventative Care
Naturopathic physicians believe that prohibiting co-pays for annual physicals and wellness exams might encourage more people to have them. The earlier that disease can be identified, the better the prognosis is for the patient. Co-pays can deter utilization of health care services. Naturopathic physicians believe that we should encourage, not discourage patients from regular health screenings.

2) House Bill 5009- An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage.
Naturopathic physicians are in support of health insurance programs that offer wellness programs and discounts to those people who participate in them. (Section 13) Potential savings on health insurance premiums are a smart way to motivate people to take more responsibility for their health. We support this provision and look forward to working with you as the bill moves forward.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of these two very important bills. I believe that together we can improve the health of people in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Stacey Munro, N.D.
Legislative Chair, CNPA