

~~PR 03392~~

Senator Joseph Crisco

Representative Steve Fontana

Co-Chairs, Insurance & Real Estate Committee

March 7, 2010

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Jody EISEMANN

**RE: SB 00392 – AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENTS PROVIDED BY CHIROPRACTORS AND THE MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE CARRIED BY CHIROPRACTORS**

Dear Senator Crisco and Representative Fontana,

I respectfully request that you consider rejecting S.B. 00392 that will be coming before you this Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

I am a Licensed Acupuncturist since 1992 and have had a license in CT since 1996. I have been involved in the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM) since its re-creation in 2007 and have served as the group's secretary and its past president.

In regards to insurance coverage for acupuncture, at present, the laws in CT allow chiropractors and other professions to use acupuncture with no minimum education requirements or continued oversight by the state. Their scope of practice has no specified acupuncture education or any examinations. Unlike Licensed Acupuncturists, other professions are not required to attend continuing education in acupuncture in order to keep their license up to date.

However, Licensed Acupuncturists in CT are required to have a minimum of 1350 hours of training (they actually graduate with many more hours than that), take a grueling three day national board examination (given by the NCCAOM), and pass a Clean Needle Technique course. Plus, we are required to take yearly continuing education courses in order to keep our national certification with NCCAOM current. However, such standards are not required for any other CT profession that uses acupuncture in their practice.

Additionally, if this bill passes, it will severely impair the ability of Licensed Acupuncturists like myself to earn a living without similar insurance coverage. Unfortunately, many members of the public are not aware there are any educational differences between medical professions using acupuncture and will understandably use insurance coverage to determine who they will use for

their acupuncture care, regardless of quality, knowledge or lack of training in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Licensed Acupuncturists are few in number compared to many other healthcare providers, but we are highly dedicated to the well-being of our patients. We know from experience that acupuncture can offer hope to those who have not found relief with other forms of medicine and can offer an alternative to those who are seeking healthcare with little or no side effects. Acupuncture is at least 5,000 years old and its numerous benefits are real, substantial and measurable.

Our state society, CSAOM, worked hard over the last two years working closely with the members of the Public Health Committee on issues surrounding acupuncture. We would welcome the opportunity to also work with you and your committee to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your dedication as an elected official.

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President Emeritus CSAOM

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