

"FTR - SB392"

Senator Joseph Crisco
Representative Steve Fontana
Co-Chairs, Insurance & Real Estate Committee

Connecticut General Assembly
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-240-0510

March 8th, 2010

RE: SB 392 - 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,

My name is Matthew Maneggla of Hartford. I am writing to ask that the committee vote down SB 392.

I am writing as a concerned Licensed Acupuncturist (L.Ac.) in the State of CT. As a L.Ac., I have completed over 3,000 hours of post-graduate education in acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. This training included over 1,000 hours of one-on-one patient treatments supervised by licensed doctors of Chinese medicine, many of whom had years of training in China and the U.S. I even had the good fortune of completing a six-week internship at a medical school in China.

In order to become a License Acupuncturist in CT, you must pass a minimum of 4 national board exams. In order to sit for these exams, you must be a graduate of a nationally accredited university of Traditional Chinese Medicine - all of which have a similar degree of training to my 3,000+ hour program. In addition, all Licensed Acupuncturists in CT must pass a national Clean Needle Technique course.

My concern with SB 392 is that chiropractors in CT are legally allowed to practice acupuncture with *no training whatsoever, including Clean Needle Technique*. It is my understanding that most chiropractors practicing acupuncture have completed training programs in which they are "certified" in acupuncture, but these programs are usually in the 200 hour range - a far cry from the approximately 3,000 hours needed to become a Licensed Acupuncturist. *Therefore, if SB 392 passes, people will be essentially encouraged to use acupuncture delivered by practitioners with only a fraction of the training of a Licensed Acupuncturist. In my opinion, this is very much opposed to the best interests of the people of Connecticut's healthcare.*

I sincerely thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. I will contact you again regarding this matter. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me via the contact information below. Again, thanks so much for your time.

Sincerely,


Matthew Maneggla, L.Ac.
155 Whitney Street
Hartford, CT 06105
860-794-8182
matt@WHacupuncture.com

cc: Senator Eric Coleman
Representative Kenneth Green