

ACUPUNCTURE AND WELLNESS

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Senator Gerratana
Representative Ritter
Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee

February 28, 2011

RE: SB 1052 – An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Committee

I am an acupuncturist with an office in Glastonbury since 1992. I grew up in Glastonbury and after many years of living all over the country, returned home to be close to family. I have been a Licensed Acupuncturist in CT. since 1995 (#13). I am also a registered nurse in CT., and I maintain a license as an acupuncturist in the state of New Mexico. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM) since its inception in 2006, having most recently served in the role of President.

Acupuncture has a long and honorable reputation of being a valued system of healthcare throughout the world, and in fact is estimated to be used by two-thirds of the world population as a primary source of healthcare. The educational requirements are rigorous and specialized and provide in depth knowledge of the principle and practices that are unique to this field of medicine.

The diagnosis in terms of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) used in this system of care is combined with the full knowledge of treatment practices and principles in order to obtain the best possible outcome for the person seeking care. It is because of this in depth knowledge and specialization that I feel it is important to have the practice definition outline this clearly, so that those choosing to use this branch of medicine are able to ascertain the practitioner with the specialized skill set to offer.

Additionally, as more and more practitioners and hospitals are finding, our unique diagnosis and treatment system can be integrated with western medicine, to the great benefit of patients. A closer collaboration with western medical providers, as well as a clear and complete definition of our practice, will serve to bridge the gap in the present understanding and we look forward to such a relationship.

I appreciate your time and effort on our behalf and I thank the committee for raising SB 1052. I ask that you approve SB 1052.

Respectfully yours,

Debra Diers
L.Ac., DOM, R.N.