

Karen Marie Borla, L.Ac., M.Ac.
Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM), FABORM
quan_yin_arts@sbcglobal.net

45 South Main St. Ste 206
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-485-3655

SB 1052 – An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture
Testimony - Public Health Committee Hearing March 2nd, 2011

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am a licensed acupuncturist and treasurer of the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. I practice acupuncture full time in West Hartford, CT and have been practicing here since 2002. I see patients from around the state including West Hartford, Avon, Farmington, Bloomfield, Simsbury, Newington, Rocky Hill, Glastonbury, Cheshire, Middletown, New Haven, Haddam, Torrington and Vernon.

Thank you for raising SB 1052. I am writing to encourage you to approve this bill in committee. It is so important to us and our patients to have the practice of acupuncture fully described and differentiated from other professions so that the patient/consumer can be well educated about what sets us apart from other professions that might have acupuncture in their scope of practice but not necessarily the level of training that a licensed acupuncturist has.

I'd like to relate a story to make my point. I was recently on a yoga and meditation retreat and met an M.D. who has an holistic medicine practice. She has recently been incorporating acupuncture into her practice after taking a 300 hour course. She loves doing acupuncture and is excited about the results she sees with her patients. But she mentioned she feels she doesn't know enough and is eager to augment her knowledge with more course work.

I have a Masters of Acupuncture from the New England School of Acupuncture in Watertown, MA which consisted of 3,700 hours of didactic and clinical course work including diagnosis of disease in the Chinese medicine paradigm, point location, point names and functions, biomedicine, needle insertion techniques, and adjunctive modalities including tui na, cupping, gwa sha, Chinese nutrition and dietary therapy, and Chinese hygiene. I have an additional 100 hours of training in infertility and must maintain 20 hours of continuing education in infertility every 2 years and 60 hours of continuing education every 4 years to maintain my certification with the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

I see between 35 and 50 patients each week for a variety of conditions. The beauty of Chinese Medicine is in the details. I do a complete health history to determine their Chinese Medicine diagnostic pattern. Each patient's treatment is tailored to fit the individual. I spend time educating my patients on proper lifestyle and dietary hygiene for achieving and maintaining health. Acupuncture and Oriental medicine is a complete system and is so much more than sticking needles in a person to relieve pain.

Thank you very much for considering the approval of SB 1052 in committee.

Sincerely,

Karen Borla, L.Ac.
Quan Yin Healing Arts
Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine.

cc. Representative Andrew Fleischman; Senator Beth Bye