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Feb 28. 2011

TO: The Connecticut Public Health Committee, for Public Hearing March 2, 2011
RE: Senate Bill 1052, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE"

I have been practicing acupuncture since 1989 and have a well-established office in Groton, Connecticut. I have seen the evolution of our profession evolve from semi-legal trade to a full-fledged profession. I believe that defining our scope of practice is essential, especially since many techniques overlap with other scopes of practice.

The public will be protected from fraudulent practice of acupuncture, and insurance companies will have a clear understanding of what services are provided. This bill is very important to the safe and professional practice of acupuncture in Connecticut, and is an opportunity for the state to be a leader when it comes to public health.

There has been some discussion of the use of the term 'diagnosis'. We do not intend to make a standard medical diagnosis.

Acupuncture is helpful for many conditions, including minor aches and pains of every-day life, and stress related disorders. It can also be used in conjunction with standard medical treatment for more serious problems. In order to treat properly within the parameters of our particular framework of medicine, we need to be able to diagnose according to our discipline. A 'TCM' or "acupuncture diagnosis" would sound something like this: Heat in the Upper Warmer, Stagnation in the Jueyin Meridian, Rebellious Qi. These are clearly Chinese medical diagnoses, nothing like a standard diagnosis. It is essential that we be permitted to diagnose in this way and that our definition of practice state this clearly.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years of practice here in Connecticut and it is with pleasure that I've watched my chosen profession evolve. I look forward to many more years of practicing acupuncture within a well-defined scope of practice.

Sincerely,

Kathleen T. Poole, L.Ac.

www.mysticriveracupuncture.com