



Statement of Mikyle S. Byrd-Vaughn, N.D.

Before the Public Health Committee

Senate Bill 261

March 7, 2012

I am Dr. Mikyle Byrd-Vaughn, licensed naturopathic physician in the State of Connecticut and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine.

Naturopathic physicians are trained as first contact providers, meaning that they diagnosis, treat, and prevent acute and chronic disease; collaborating with and referring to other healthcare providers as needed. Naturopathic medical programs are four-year, full-time, graduate-level training. The first two years are similar to a conventional medical program, with courses in anatomy, physiology, pathology, and diagnostics. The last two years emphasize systems, such as gastroenterology and cardiology; populations, such as pediatrics and geriatrics; as well as therapeutics, such as clinical nutrition and botanical medicine. Because Naturopathic Physicians are licensed as primary care providers in numerous states, UBCNM trains its students to the greatest scope of practice, including IV therapeutics, pharmacology, and minor office procedures.

Graduates of the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine will have completed 4941 total hours of academic and clinical education. The program includes 1386 hours in clinical education; 72 hours in pharmacology; 18 hours of IV therapeutics, including parenteral nutrition; and 36 hours of minor office procedures. Pharmacology is also covered in part in numerous clinical science courses, such as cardiology and endocrinology, in addition to nutrition and botanical medicine courses where known or suspected interactions are discussed in detail.

For over 10 years, the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine has had its medical residents' complete rotations at Yale-Griffin Hospital's Integrated Medical Center. In addition, as a part of the Health Sciences programs at the University of Bridgeport, the students



have been invited to St. Vincent's Hospital to perform medical rounds along with other medical students. The students have also been afforded the opportunity to rotate through the emergency departments of Waterbury and Greenwich Hospitals, and preceptor in medical offices.

At UB's on-campus Naturopathic Clinic, student clinicians train under the supervision of licensed NDs. UB Clinics see approximately 20,000 patients per year, most of whom are under-insured and have a history of receiving irregular health care. A large percentage of our patient population suffer from chronic conditions, which can contribute to B12 deficiency. At present, NDs are trained to administer IM injections and can diagnose a B12 deficiency but must refer out for B12 injections which can interrupt the completion of care for the patient. Allowing NDs to administer B12 injections is one small step in the direction of enhancing our ability to provide care to this under-served population. Thank you.

Total hours for the UBCNM program (academic and clinical training)	4941
Hours of Clinical Education (phlebotomy, OSHA training, and safe handling of needles)	1386
Hours of Pharmacology Education	72
Hours of IV Therapeutics Education (including Parenteral nutrition)	18
Minor Office Procedures (minor surgery, injections)	36