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## **RSB 276 – An Act Concerning Licensing Requirements for Acupuncturists**

### **Testimony of Carrie Sawtell, L.Ac. Public Health Committee Public Hearing March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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

I am a licensed acupuncturist in the State of Connecticut. I own a Community Acupuncture clinic in Windsor that currently provides about 80 treatments per week to the residents of Windsor and its surrounding communities, such as Hartford, Bloomfield, Granby, and Windsor Locks. I opened my clinic in May of 2010 and am already thinking about hiring another acupuncturist, because the need for affordable acupuncture services is so great in this area.

Thank you for raising SB 276. I am hoping you will approve the bill in the Committee, with the revisions and recommendations that the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM) is working on with the Department of Public Health. One of the first questions I am asked by prospective patients is if I am licensed or certified and what kind of education I have received. Most people do not know that I completed a four-year Master's degree and then sat for a National Certification Exam in order to become a licensed acupuncturist. Having our educational hours, exams, and professional development credits clearly stated in the law is important for my practice, my patients, and my potential patients.

More and more consumers are seeking out Traditional Chinese Medicine as an adjunct to their Western medical care. Some have chronic illnesses that do not respond well to Western medicine. Others are trying to reduce their usage of prescription drugs, or are looking for alternatives to invasive surgery. Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine excel at treating these kinds of issues. It is imperative that we provide our citizens the information they need to make an informed decision about what kind of alternative medicine is best for them. Having up-to-date licensing requirements will help consumers make these informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrie Sawtell, L.Ac.

cc: Senator Beth Bye

Representative David Baram