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RSB 276 – An Act Concerning Licensing Requirements for Acupuncturists

Testimony of Joe Pandolfo
Public Health Committee Public Hearing March 7th, 2012

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

I'm writing in support of SB 276 as a patient, as a citizen engaged in health care policy issues and member of the Legislature's 2010 Sustinet Preventive Care Advisory Committee, and on behalf of the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM). I've lived in Connecticut since childhood, raised my own family here, and have spent my entire academic and professional life in the state, intending to retire here.

I want to thank you for raising SB 276 – An Act Concerning Licensing Requirements for Acupuncturists. I encourage you to not only approve the bill in Committee but to also support its passage on the Senate and House floors.

This proposal was introduced to bring the Acupuncturists' licensing law up to date with the actual curriculum and examination standards presently required for state licensure. The proposal also adds reference to the Acupuncture certification granted by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine that our state's licensees receive upon completion of required exams, making maintenance of the certification a condition of license renewal. These education, exam and professional development standards reflect the depth of today's acupuncture and Oriental medicine practice. And, inclusion of these current standards in the statute more accurately informs consumers as well as other health professionals about the quality of the services that Acupuncturists provide to their patients.

The bill before you is being developed with recommendations from the Department of Public Health, as we at the CSAOM have sought the Department's input on appropriate grand-parenting provisions for existing licensees. We look forward to finalizing those details in collaboration with the Department and will furnish final bill language immediately upon completing that work.

The value of the services provided to Connecticut patients by fully credentialed Acupuncturists is becoming better recognized and more widely utilized; for example in the integration of Acupuncturist services at many of our state's hospitals. Your support of legislation that reflects the current standards of this profession adds public health value, and is very much appreciated by patients like me.

Thank for your consideration, and for all your good work to improve public health and public health information for Connecticut citizens.

Cc: Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams
Representative Gregory Haddad