



Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
27 Park Place New Canaan, CT 06840  
203.972.7699 ~ CSAOM.org

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

**Testimony of** Regina Walsh, LAc, President the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

**Public Health Committee Public Hearing March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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

The Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM) represents the Licensed Acupuncturists in the state. It is also a member of the Council of State Associations of the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. It is the goal of the CSAOM to continue to increase public safety, improve the level of medical care provided through acupuncture services, and increase the education standards of our practitioners in order to maintain the national standards as established by the profession.

Our organization would like to thank the Committee for considering and raising SB 276, and encourage the Committee to approve the bill and endorse its passage in the Assembly, with the revisions that we are in the process of finalizing with the assistance of the Department of Public Health.

From its enactment in 1995 the statute has applied, and the DPH has recognized, the Acupuncturist education requirements of the profession's national accrediting body, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM). The education hours required by ACAOM have increased since the statute was initially written. Accredited schools, their students and the national certification body follow the increase, but the statute has not yet been revised accordingly.

This bill proposal updates the required acupuncture education hours to 1,905, including 660 clinical hours. This would make the statute consistent with the current recognized national standards of the ACAOM

As the licensing agency for Acupuncturists under the statute, the DPH has historically applied the professional written and practical exams developed and certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). As DPH publications describe, state license applicants must demonstrate "Successful completion of all portions of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) acupuncture examination".

By specifying the exams required for full certification in Acupuncture, the statute will safeguard consumers by ensuring that practitioners have successfully passed the most valid and current NCCAOM examinations, based on the latest job analysis survey.

Additionally, the proposal requires continued maintenance of that certification for those Acupuncturists licensed in accordance with the standard education and NCCAOM certification exam requirements.

Connecticut is one of a few states nationally that does not require continuing education for license renewal. The CSAOM believes it is important to maintain a standard of quality in acupuncture services through the continuing education of its practitioners. Requiring that licensees maintain their NCCAOM certification is an efficient way to achieve this objective.

As always, I appreciate the Public Health Committee's consideration of the requests made by the Connecticut Licensed Acupuncturists. Legislative improvements improve the practice of our profession, as I have known in my own private practice in New Canaan, and in my own volunteer work for the past ten years in the state and national Boards of our professional organizations.

Best regards,

Regina Walsh, MAc., LAc., Dipl.Ac.  
President  
Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
New Canaan, CT