



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 7, 2012**

*Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101*

### **Senate Bill 261 - An Act Concerning Natureopathic Medicine**

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The Department of Public Health is opposed to Senate Bill No. 261.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-34, the practice of natureopathy means the science, art and practice of healing by natural methods and includes treatment by natural substances. Section 20-34 further defines "natural substances" as substances which are not narcotic substances, do not require the written or oral prescription of a licensed practitioner to be dispensed and are only administered orally. This bill would expand the definition of "natural substances" to allow natureopathic physicians to administer vitamin B12 injections. The Department understands that injectable vitamin B12 requires a doctor's prescription. Natureopathic physicians do not have prescriptive authority. As such, the Department opposes the proposed senate bill, and respectfully requests all members of the Committee to vote in opposition to its enactment.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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