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H.B. No. 5734

AN ACT ALLOWING NATUROPATHS TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN DRUGS

February 20, 2013

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a nurse with 42 years of experience, 28 of which have been as a school nurse and a school nurse supervisor, I submit testimony in opposition to Raised Bill HB 5734. Since the practice of natureopathy (Connecticut Department of Public Health language below) means...healing by natural methods, medications by prescription does not reflect that nature of the art, science, and practice embraced by such practitioners.

As a school nurse, I have experience with certain naturopaths prescribing certain products for children at school for which information on the safety and efficacy for use in children is unavailable and for which administration during the school day is unwarranted. Further discussion on the subject is needed to determine the reasons for such changes and whether the outcome would benefit the public health.

I urge you to oppose HB 5734. Thank you.

CHAPTER 373
NATUREOPATHY

Section 20-34. Practice defined. (a) The practice of natureopathy means the science, art and practice of healing by natural methods as recognized by the Council of Natureopathic Medical Education and approved by the State Board of Natureopathic Examiners, with the consent of the commissioner, and shall include (1) counseling and (2) the practice of the mechanical and material sciences of healing as follows: The mechanical sciences such as mechanotherapy, articular manipulation, corrective and orthopedic gymnastics, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy and phototherapy; and the material sciences such as nutrition, dietetics, phytotherapy, treatment by natural substances and external applications. (b) For purposes of subsection (a), "natural substances" are substances which are not narcotic substances as defined in subsection (30) of section 21a-240, do not require the written or oral prescription of a licensed practitioner to be dispensed and are only administered orally.