

**TESTIMONY OF ENRICO LIVA RPh, ND SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

**HB 5734, An act Allowing Naturopathic Physicians To Prescribe Certain Drugs**

Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeanne Fuqua. I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and a Naturopathic Physician in practice since 2006. I currently reside in New Haven and have my practice in Woodbridge and Wethersfield.

I am writing in support of HB 5734. Naturopathic physicians are well trained in naturopathic methods for preventive and acute care as well as conventional treatment methods. We are versed in naturopathic modalities as well as drug therapies. The goal of naturopathic medicine is to offer the best medical care options to our patients to promote health in the safest and most effective manner possible for each patient's individual needs. There are many times patients are able to decrease their dependence on chronic medications or discontinue them altogether. There are other times when a pharmaceutical medication is the most appropriate and safest choice. Connecticut's current laws for the naturopathic scope of practice does not match our medical training and abilities. More importantly, from a public health standpoint, naturopathic care has the hope of decreasing healthcare costs to Connecticut residents by our foundational approach to promoting health through non pharmaceutical treatment modalities, while still allowing for the most appropriate and safest medical choice to be offered within that office. Its my hope that Connecticut residents will be exposed to the full scope of resources that a naturopathic physician can provide. With an increase in the scope of practice, naturopaths can provide a more integrative approach, as we are well trained to do. With more integrative healthcare options, Connecticut residents will benefit in health savings to their bodies as well as financially.

Thank you for your consideration.