



Division of Health Sciences

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN
Vice Provost, Health Sciences

February 20, 2013

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

The University of Bridgeport (UB) has a growing Division of Health Sciences committed to providing excellent degree programs in integrative medicine, including programs in Naturopathic Medicine, Chiropractic, Physician Assistant, Acupuncture, Dental Hygiene, and Nutrition. Founded in 1927, UB has strong and long-established accredited health sciences programs that include many firsts. The University's College of Naturopathic Medicine was the first such college to be located within a comprehensive university in the United States and is the only CNME accredited naturopathic program in the eastern US. UB program's alumni include prominent physicians and health care providers throughout the nation, including many at top-tier academic medical centers such as New York University, Vanderbilt University, Yale University, and Johns Hopkins University.

The University also promotes inter-disciplinary collaboration in health care by offering joint degree programs in CAM fields. Through partnerships with entities such as Bridgeport's St. Vincent's Medical Center, UB's naturopathic students have participated in clinical rotations at area hospitals where they are trained alongside conventional allopathic medical students. UB has also partnered with the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center at the Integrative Medicine Center at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Connecticut, to provide unique residency programs in Integrative Medicine, enabling medical and naturopathic doctors to collaborate in providing patient-centered holistic care.

The *UB Clinics* are located on the University of Bridgeport campus and include the main clinical teaching facilities for the College of Naturopathic Medicine. The *UB Clinics* provide valuable healthcare services to upwards of 20,000 patients in the southern Connecticut region annually, including those who are uninsured and underinsured. In 2012, *UB Clinics* provided patient treatment and other health services valued at \$1.4 million to the public.

The antiquated naturopathic licensing law in the State of Connecticut, with its extremely limited scope of practice compared to other States, has provided a significant impediment to the University in meeting its educational mission in its naturopathic medicine program. We are charged by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) with educating naturopathic doctors to meet the standards and competencies to practice in any State, including those with a scope of practice which include significant pharmaceutical formularies, routes of administration including IV and injection, and minor office procedures not included in the antiquated CT law. This limits the experiential component of the clinical training we can offer, it greatly limits the scope of health care services we can provide to our needy populations who visit our *UB Clinics*, and also reduces the opportunities for our graduates within the State of Connecticut after graduation.



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As a licensed naturopathic physician and private practitioner I personally find the scope of practice extremely frustrating and wasteful. I have to refer patients for services and procedures well within my competency, costing them and the health care system more while delaying care and inconveniencing them further. I travel nationally and internationally as a thought leader, author and educator in integrative medicine speaking at the major conferences and scientific symposiums in the field teaching mainly medical physicians how to incorporate and integrate evidence-based naturopathic approaches with standard medical care and then return home unable to practice much of what I just was brought in to teach. I am licensed in the neighboring State of Vermont and have the tools within my scope of practice there, including a reasonable pharmaceutical formulary, to practice comprehensive primary care with an emphasis on health promotion and chronic disease prevention. I then drive to Connecticut and cannot do this in my practice in Trumbull. I can assure you that crossing the State lines does not make me any less intelligent or capable.

In closing, I would like to strongly encourage the committee to consider efforts to explore a responsible modernization of the naturopathic licensing law and scope of practice in Connecticut. The University of Bridgeport, including the College of Naturopathic Medicine, stands ready and willing to assist this effort in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DMB, ND".

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN
Vice Provost, Health Sciences
Director, Human Nutrition Institute
University of Bridgeport
Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences