

Testimony on *H.B. No. 6592: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF CLASSICAL HOMEOPATHS

My name is Peter Gold and I represent the National Center for Homeopathy. We are the organizing body for homeopathy in the U.S. I am writing to strongly endorse this legislation.

Homeopathy is a health care option that has been around for over 200 years. It is currently used by over 500 million people worldwide making it the second most popular form of alternative care on earth (according to the World Health Organization). Consumers in all of Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, and Australia use homeopathy to improve their health and recover from illness.

What's more, homeopathic remedies are a ubiquitous part of American life. Consumers can purchase them over the counter at health food stores, pharmacy chains and even Walmart. They are regulated by the FDA and have an unparalleled record for safety. Remedies are gentle, do not interact with other substances including medicines, and are inexpensive.

In addition to their widespread availability, homeopathic remedies have been proven in pre-clinical, clinical and observational studies to be effective in addressing many health issues. And they do so at a fraction of the cost to consumers and society as a whole.

Since homeopathy is individualized to the person, choosing the correct remedy for any particular health problem requires a degree of expertise, but does not require medical training. Only nine physicians in the state are licensed to offer homeopathy. This Act would make it possible for consumers in Connecticut to gain access to individuals well trained in homeopathy - certified classical homeopaths - thereby enhancing the ability of Connecticut citizens to utilize this safe and effective option.

This Act specifically calls for allowing homeopaths certified by the Council for Homeopathic Certification to work with Connecticut consumers. The Council was formed in response to a new vision for homeopathy's future as a unified profession of highly trained and certified practitioners, and with a desire to create one meaningful national standard for practitioners of classical homeopathy.

The CHC works with existing homeopathic educational, training, and professional organizations to promote excellence in classical homeopathic practice, including the North American Society of Homeopaths, which requires certification by CHC of its applicants for registration.

Certification by CHC is a public statement of recognition by a practitioner's peers of training, knowledge, skill and competence in classical homeopathy. The certifying board includes

homeopaths from major health care professions, as well as the growing group of professional homeopaths. This certification also assists the general public in choosing appropriately qualified homeopaths from all professional backgrounds.

Candidates for certification must fulfill educational and clinical experience prerequisites established by the CHC in order to undertake a challenging written exam. Those who pass the written exam subsequently take an oral examination. Successful candidates receive a certificate stating that they are "Certified in Classical Homeopathy", and are entitled to use the credential 'CCH'.

It is my hope, and that of my colleagues at the National Center for Homeopathy, that you will support this Act and provide consumers in Connecticut with access to this wonderful system. Thank you.

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