



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 20, 2013**

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Senate Bill 873 – AN ACT CONCERNING COLON HYDROTHERAPY SERVICES

The Department of Public Health is opposed to Senate Bill 873 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

This proposal would require the Department of Public Health to obtain a list of colon hydrotherapists in the State that are certified by the National Board for Colon Hydrotherapy and included in the board's registry and make such list available for public inspection. The stated intent of the proposal is to provide the public with notice of persons who are certified by the National Board for Colon Hydrotherapy to provide colon hydrotherapy services.

Colon hydrotherapists are not licensed or regulated by the Department of Public Health and there is no statutorily recognized standard for the practice of colon hydrotherapy in Connecticut. It is not evident whether the practice of colon hydrotherapy by unlicensed individuals is currently permitted pursuant to Connecticut law and the Connecticut Medical Examining Board has issued a notice of its intention to issue a declaratory ruling on whether colonic irrigation may be administered by nonmedical personnel without medical supervision or consultation.

The Department is concerned that providing the public with a list of individuals who are certified by the National Board for Colon Hydrotherapy implies that the Department recognizes this certification or otherwise regulates these individuals. If colon hydrotherapists are requesting statutory recognition of the profession and to establish a scope of practice in Connecticut, the request should be vetted through the Department's scope of practice review committee process. The scope of practice review process includes but is not limited to an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request and an evaluation of whether the request may enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether the request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training.

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

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