

Good morning Sen Gerratana & Rep Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I'm Jan Sopata from Fairfield, Ct, and I practice homeopathy in NY state. I am here to testify on Raised Bill 5327: An Act Concerning Health Freedom and the Practice of Classical Homeopathy.

I definitely support this bill. We need to upgrade our law in Ct to reflect what is happening in alternative health care in our state, in our country and around the world. Homeopathy is an important natural therapy that is gentle, safe and effective. Homeopathic remedies are sold in many stores and are readily available.

Currently 47 states in the US allow unlicensed homeopaths to practice. It is a common therapy in Europe, England, France, and Germany. The Swiss government published a report in 2011, the most comprehensive evaluation of homeopathic treatment ever written by a government, affirming that it is both an effective and cost effective treatment and that it should be included by Switzerland's national health insurance program.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that our group, Homeopathy for Connecticut has organized to help upgrade our state law to be in sync with current alternative health care practices.

Homeopathy is not the practice of medicine. It is a holistic practice, in that we treat the whole person. The skills needed are specific to homeopathic training and are not taught in medical schools. We do not diagnose or treat diseases or do physical examinations. Everyone who visits a homeopath needs to also have a medical doctor.

I really hope that we can get in line with the other New England states and the rest of the United States to update our antiquated law from 1893.

I would like to be able to practice in my own state, when I complete the requirements to become a certified classical homeopath . I want to help people in Ct obtain optimal health in a natural way.

I think our proposal to require the national board certification by the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) is an excellent idea that insures that we have the highest level of practitioners. No other state requires this, meaning that we would be holding the bar as high as possible.

With this bill there is no cost to the state of Ct, it brings in jobs and provides important alternatives and freedom of choice for our people.

This is not a controversial issue. I think with this bill we will be offering important avenues for our people to help them stay healthy.

Please support this bill and say YES! to make homeopathy an accessible reality here in Ct.

Thank you!

Jan Sopata