

Adam Breiner
5520 Park Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611
HB 5537

March 13, 2014

Dear CT PHC Testimony,

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee:

I write to ask you to strongly support and vote in the affirmative to add bill language for the modernization of the CT Naturopathic physician scope of practice to HB 5537. The language needs to be attached to this bill so it can come before the Public Health Committee for consideration. This Naturopathic scope of practice law is 90 years old and has not kept pace with the significant advances in education and training of Naturopathic doctors in the ensuing decades.

I am a physician that has over 1,000 patients that I serve in the State of Connecticut. At my clinic we see people from all walks of life and with various medical conditions. I continually strive to provide my patients with the best and most innovative care possible. I do so, however, with my hands tied. Far too often, a patient of mine needs a certain medication or procedure that as a naturopathic physician in the State of Connecticut I cannot provide for them. They must then waste their time and money to go to another physician to get what I have already assessed they need.

Connecticut should pride itself on having one of the oldest naturopathic licensing laws in the nation. The legislatures of the early 20th century had the compassion and foresight to give Connecticut citizens access to naturopathic medical care. However, nearly a hundred years later, it is time that Connecticut to modernize this ancient law. Much has changed since the 1920's, and while naturopathic medicine still embraces its core principles of the healing power of nature, it has evolved to include many modern advances. Many other states have licensing laws that allow its naturopathic physicians to practice to their training to provide the best care possible. It is time for Connecticut to join these prudent states.

Most importantly, it is the citizens whom you represent that you must keep in mind when voting to modernize the naturopathic scope of practice. As government becomes more and more involved in people's health care, it is tantamount to allow people the freedom of choice they deserve. There are many citizens that choose to have a naturopathic physician be their primary care giver. It is now time to allow these ND's to practice to their training so they can provide a high standard of care the people of Connecticut expect and deserve.

Thank you for your time in considering this important piece of legislation, and the support I hope you will give.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Adam Breiner