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To: Senator Gerratana, Rep. Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee

This letter is written in support of allowing naturopathic doctors in the state of Connecticut to prescribe various medications consistent with their training. The current naturopathic scope of practice in Connecticut is very outdated and does not reflect the level of education and training that naturopathic doctors receive. A significant update in the practice act is warranted.

My knowledge of the naturopathic profession is derived primarily from having taught for 9 years at Bastyr University, one of the four accredited institutions in the United States that train students to practice naturopathic medicine. At Bastyr, I taught Therapeutic Nutrition to third-year students and supervised clinic shifts for third- and fourth-year students. In addition, I have worked with a number of practicing naturopaths over the past 30 years, both as a consultant and in the co-management of patients.

Naturopathic medical students study pharmacology during their training, and those who wish to have prescriptive rights may be required to pass a certification examination. In my experience, naturopathic doctors have an adequate understanding of the indications, contraindications, precautions, interactions, toxicities, and dosages for the medications they prescribe. I do not have any safety concerns regarding the granting of limited prescribing rights to naturopaths. Granting those rights would improve continuity of care and decrease the overall cost of healthcare by decreasing the number of doctors that patients would need to visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Gaby".

Alan R. Gaby, M.D.