

Jane O'Shaughnessy
19 Oakwood Manor
Cromwell, CT 06416
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 have been a patient of naturopathic doctors for the past 20+ years, and have never recieved anything but the most competent care. In my experience, these doctors take the "do no harm' pledge very seriously, more so than many M.D.s I have seen. They certainly have the training and expertise to write prescriptions and perform minor office procedures.

I see M.D.s mainly for the prescriptions that I need - if I was able to get those written by my naturopath it would free my M.D. up to take on another patient. I would think they would welcome this, since any M.D. I deal with is swamped and has extremely long waits to get an appointment.

It seems to me that adding this bill language for the modernization of the CT Naturopathic physician scope of practice could only do good - it would provide another way for CT citizens to take care of their health and would in no way step on the toes of current M.D.s.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jane O'Shaughnessy