

TESTIMONY OF HOMEOPATHY FOR CONNECTICUT

To the Public Health Committee

In Support of Raised Bill 5327:

An Act Concerning Health Freedom and the Practice of Classical Homeopathy

March 5, 2014

Homeopathy for Connecticut supports HB 5327 and we thank you for raising the bill. We are a diverse group of people who are asking you to improve access to homeopathy by allowing nationally certified classical homeopaths, those who have achieved the highest standard of homeopathic education and training, to practice homeopathy in Connecticut.

To this end, HB 5327 allows nationally certified classical homeopaths to practice in the state, assures the public of a high level of competence among practitioners, and provides for consumer protections with clear disclosure and consent requirements.

Respectfully, we are also requesting that language be added to allow for the clinical training necessary to achieve national board certification.

The practice of homeopathy is restricted in Connecticut. As a result, well-trained and nationally certified professional homeopaths are not allowed to practice. Ours is only one of three states (the others are Arizona and Nevada) that license medical doctors to practice homeopathy. Of these, only Connecticut restricts the practice of homeopathy to medical doctors. This is a result of a law from 1893 - enacted 120 years ago - and no longer reflects contemporary practice. This law is out of step with the fact that the vast majority of homeopaths in the U.S. are not medical doctors.

In the remaining 47 states, homeopaths are not regulated and consumers may freely consult with homeopaths whether board certified or not. Nine of these states have passed health freedom laws that allow unlicensed complementary and alternative care

practitioners to practice, including homeopaths. In these health freedom states, to assure consumers are informed, an unlicensed practitioner must provide a disclosure stating that he or she is not regulated by the state, is not a licensed physician, the nature of the services provided, and the type and duration of training. HB 5327 is a health freedom bill that addresses just the practice of homeopathy and raises the bar by only allowing board certified homeopaths to practice, while requiring the same high standards for disclosure and consent.

Currently there are only eight (8) licensed homeopathic medical doctors in the state and most practice homeopathy on a limited basis, if at all. In addition, a small number of naturopaths offer classical homeopathy. As a result, homeopathic care is often sought in our neighboring states and certified classical homeopaths leave the state to practice their profession.

In the scope of practice review completed last year, the Department of Public Health reported that there was no evidence found that the practice of homeopathy poses any health or safety risk to the public. Homeopathy is a very safe system of natural health care that gently stimulates the body's innate ability to heal itself, improving health and wellbeing. Also, homeopathic remedies, which are regulated by the FDA, are sold over the counter and anyone is free to purchase and use them.

Medicine and homeopathy are two separate disciplines with very different education and training requirements. Homeopaths do not need to have a medical education because they are not practicing medicine and do not diagnose or treat disease.

The national Council for Homeopathic Certification sets proficiency standards for, and certifies, professional homeopaths in the U.S. and monitors compliance with the continuing education requirements. Certification is a rigorous process. A list of certification requirements is attached.

PLEASE NOTE - As written, HB 5327 does not allow students of homeopathy to engage in the required training necessary to qualify for national certification. The national Council for Homeopathic Certification requires 390 hours of clinical experience in order to qualify. **Therefore, we request that the following language be added to HB 5327 to allow for the clinical training necessary for board certification:**

Section 1 (f). Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the activities of a student of homeopathy (1) enrolled in and under the supervision of a school of homeopathy recognized by the Council for Homeopathic Certification, (2) enrolled in a clinical training program approved by the Council for Homeopathic Certification, or (3) in training under the supervision of a homeopathic physician, a naturopathic physician, a certified classical homeopath (CCH), or other person or entity approved by the Council for Homeopathic Certification.

We urge you to support HB 5327 and to add the language related to training. This bill will attract more qualified homeopaths to Connecticut and improve consumer access to a low cost approach to health and wellness. Allowing more homeopaths to practice in Connecticut will allow the growth of a system of natural health care that is safe, effective, and is recognized throughout the world.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Attachment: Training Requirements for Certified Classical Homeopaths

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National Certification Requirements

To become certified as a Certified Classical Homeopath (CCH), the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) requires the following:

1. Exam Prerequisites:
 - U.S. resident
 - Homeopathic education:
Minimum of 500 hours of homeopathic training from either a single school or a variety of different programs.
 - Sciences:
Completion of an Anatomy and Physiology course (3-5 credits or a minimum of 33 hours of lecture time) and a Pathology and Disease course (40 classroom hours).
Courses must be recognized by the CHC.
 - Clinical education:
Minimum of 250 documented hours of clinical observation/ analysis plus 10 formally supervised cases, for a total of 390 hours of clinical experience.
2. Proctored written exam: Theoretical and Practical
3. Submission of 5 cases taken without supervision and followed for a minimum of 6 months.
4. Oral interview
5. Practitioners certified by the CHC must complete a minimum of 20 continuing education units (CEU's) each calendar year.

For more information, please visit: www.homeopathicdirectory.com