

Alyssa Anello
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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.

The philosophy of Naturopathic medicine is to find and treat the cause of disease, there are so many chronic illnesses that people suffer with every day. As Naturopaths, we spend a half-hour to an hour with each of our patients, in this time we are able to educate, empower, and support our patients in healing. The scope of practice for NDs in Connecticut currently limits the modalities available to heal their patients. With the proposed scope expansion, NDs will be able to use the tools they have been extensively trained in to provide health care for their patients.

Our education consists of a four year post graduate degree, including two nationally recognized board exams, a basic science exam and a clinical exam. We spend two years in clinical settings, such as local doctors offices, on campus clinics, and hospitals. We receive 72 hours of didactic training in pharmacology related to all clinical areas and additional training in major drug classes used in specialties such as cardiology, pediatrics, and gastroenterology, and can write prescriptions when necessary. We also receive 171 hours of didactic training in botanical pharmacognasy, and 120 hours of didactic training in nutrition. Other classes include, emergency medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, neurology, oncology, and gastroenterology, among others.

Our training is extensive in all areas of the proposed scope expansion, I hope you support the modernization of the scope of practice for NDs in Connecticut.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Anello