

Amanda Levitt HB 5537
30 Swarthmore street
Hamden, CT 06517

March 12, 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 practicing as a Naturopathic Physician for 11+ years in the state of CT. Prior to my move here, our profession's primary care status in Washington state allowed for a much broader scope of practice. While I am passionate about natural medicine and use natural modalities as first line treatment, the addition of a broader scope would allow me to serve my patients more fully. Our practice has excellent relationships with MD specialists in all areas of medicine, and we give and receive referrals regularly. There are certainly times when my limited scope of practice limits my care. A simple prescription for an antibiotic, birth control pill, or thyroid hormone are well within my educational training. It costs patients an extra visit and copay to see another provider to obtain these services, when I am capable, but not allowed in my practice. In our scope of practice, I can draw blood, but not administer a vaccine or injection, which is much easier and requires less skill than phlebotomy. Our law is quite antiquated and is due for updated language and scope. I appreciate your attention to this issue and hope that you will help us serve our patients with a broader scope.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amanda Levitt, ND