

Julie Winkel
241 Metacomet Dr.
Meriden, CT 06450
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.

The time has come to expand the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in Connecticut.

My naturopathic doctor has essentially been my primary care physician for years, and she is the ONLY one who was able to diagnose the underlying issues I was walking around with for years, issues no "regular" doctor was able to figure out, including some of the so-called "best" doctors in CT, who just threw a few pills at me and sent me on my way.

But when I do need medication I have to pay to go to a regular doctor, with yet another co-pay. This requires taking time off for two appointments also. In addition, the co-pay for my naturopathic doc is higher, as she is considered a specialist. She should be my primary care physician.

It's also almost impossible to get a regular doctor to call and coordinate care with one's naturopathic doctor, leading to much miscommunication, confusion, frustration, and, again, more time off to make myriad phone calls. This is completely unnecessary, pointless, and punishes already beleaguered middleclass consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Julie Winkel