



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE AUDEN GROGINS
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4029
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 203-366-3245
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267
E-MAIL: Auden.Grogins@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Testimony of State Representative Auden Grogins in support of
HB 5537 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various
Revisions to the Public Health Statutes**

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 14, 2014

Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, for the record, my name is State Representative Auden Grogins and I represent the 129th district in Bridgeport.

I am providing testimony in support of HB 5537 asking that the committee add language to update the Naturopathic Scope of Practice which is over 90 years old and desperately needs to be updated and expanded to meet the qualifications, skills and training of naturopathic doctors and the needs of their patients.

The scope expansion includes three elements: 1) prescriptive authority for a defined list of drugs; 2) authority to write orders for medical devices and durable medical equipment; 3) ability to perform minor procedures in-office.

Modernized Naturopathic Scope of Practice laws exist in many states to reflect the evolution of this form of medicine. These states include: Arizona, Washington, Hawaii, Vermont, and California which have recognized Naturopathic Doctors as primary care providers. Connecticut has yet to make these important changes.

Specifically, I would like to add the following additional points, which focus on the benefit to the University of Bridgeport Naturopathic College and Connecticut Naturopathic Doctors.

- The University of Bridgeport house one of only 8 naturopathic colleges in the United States. Bridgeport's program is the only naturopathic program east of Chicago.
- Current law has not been revised or amended since 1927 (over 90 years) and is out of sync with other states.
- Current law does not currently meet the needs and wants of today's consumers who integrate traditional and complementary medical treatments.
- NDs (Naturopathic Doctors) in CT are prevented from treating patients to the full extent of their modern medical knowledge, skill and training.
- Outdated regulations inhibit ability to deliver affordable, comprehensive care.

- The University of Bridgeport graduates just over 100 naturopathic doctors every year. Our students must intern out of state in order to learn and fulfill competencies and obligations they will be required to meet upon graduation.
- With changes in the scope of service and therefore opportunities, UB can double the number of students it trains which will create additional economic drivers in CT.
- Upon graduation, job and business opportunities are more appealing out of state where scope of services provide professional growth and broader health care services. CT is losing economic development, small business growth and jobs.
- The University of Bridgeport delivers over \$2 million a year and free and/or discounted services to a needy population. The scope of services UB can offer is hampered by the current regulations.

I strongly support this bill with these added changes and urge the Public Health Committee to pass this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auden Grogins", written in a cursive style.

State Representative Auden Grogins