



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing House Bill 6797 An Act Concerning The Practice of Naturopathy

Public Health Committee – March 16, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 6797, AAC The Practice of Naturopathy.

This esteemed legislature came together in 2012 to enact Public Act 11-209, *An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Healthcare Professions*, which established a process for the submission and review of requests from health care professions seeking to revise or establish a scope of practice prior to consideration by the General Assembly. A link to the details of the process is provided for your additional information.

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/practitioner_licensing_and_investigations/scope_of_practice/scope_of_practice_determinations_for_health_professions_webpage_info_2014_2015_\(2\).pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/practitioner_licensing_and_investigations/scope_of_practice/scope_of_practice_determinations_for_health_professions_webpage_info_2014_2015_(2).pdf)

HB 6797 proposes a change to the scope of Naturopathy without a review and evaluation of a formal request and the Department of Public Health has no findings to address the change proposed or make recommendations to this Committee.

The language change in Section 1(a) is a change to the scope of a naturopathic professional. Corrective exercise therapy for physical rehabilitation is the evaluation and treatment of mechanical dysfunction caused by injury, disease or congenital ailment. This expertise is within a physician's and physical therapist' scope of practice as a result of their training and education and are duly licensed as a result of pertinent board certification. Without going through the Department of Public Health statutory requirement for submission and evaluation process for any formal extension of a scope of practice the intent and public protection this process entails will be circumvented.

In addition, the new language in Sec. 2 of this bill proposes the very same process that is already legislated in Public Act 11-209 making this bill duplicative and unnecessary. Detailed review and consideration by the Department of Public Health along with impact statements and educational and training curriculum evaluated by those familiar with health care professions is a good first step to take when considering granting any change to the scope of practice of a

profession. We urge this Committee to respect the current Scope Review process enacted by the State of Connecticut and oppose this bill.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT thank you for your serious consideration and we appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

Ross A. Benthien, M.D.
Connecticut Orthopaedic Society – President