

My name is Lynn T. Galletly. I reside at 325 Lafayette Street in Bridgeport, CT. I am an attorney, a registered nurse and currently a student in the Naturopathic Medicine Program at the University of Bridgeport. I am sending this email in support of efforts to allow Naturopathic Doctors prescription authority in this state. I believe that Naturopathic Medicine is an integral part of CT Healthcare. Individuals should have the right to choose whom to see in order to manage their health.

I was born and raised in Massachusetts but lived in West Suffield, CT for several years and really loved it there. It is my intention to remain in the state of CT post graduation. It is therefore important to me that as a Naturopath I am able to care for my patients in as comprehensive a way possible. The philosophy of Naturopathic Medicine is really about taking the time to learn all there is to know about one's patient and then to embark upon an investigative journey of sorts to uncover the root cause of that person's suffering. For the most part nutritional supplements and non-prescriptive remedies are used, as Naturopaths generally avoid pharmaceuticals.

There do exist a number of remedies such as B12 shots, bio identical transdermal hormones, and IV chelation therapy which are in the naturopathic realm, yet cannot be ordered for patients due to the fact that Naturopaths do not have prescriptive rights. I personally avail myself of all three of these remedies. Over the years I've had to pay thousands of additional dollars out of pocket to an integrative MD/ND who is not covered by most insurance plans because MA is not yet a Prescriptive Authority State for Naturopaths. There are very few MDs who are knowledgeable in Naturopathy or who are even interested in the field. As a result I was forced to work with two providers at once; an MD outside of my network (there are not very many MDs who perform some of the services NDs wish to provide) as well as my own Naturopath whom I trusted. In most states people do not have that option, as Northampton, Massachusetts is a unique little place in which there exists something for everyone, including MDs who also provide some ND type services. Had MA been a state in which NDs had prescriptive rights, I could have received all of my health care from the same provider, which fosters consistency and effectiveness.

Conventional Medical Doctors are an important part of the health care system. If I break my arm or need surgery I would be calling one of those guys and not a Naturopath. However, I have experienced issues that the Naturopath was willing to uncover through taking an extensive history, ordering the appropriate lab tests and engaging in an exhaustive mission to get to the root cause of my problem. Their approach to health care is different from that of a conventional medical doctor. As a result of naturopathic care, I have been able to catch health issues before they had the chance to bloom into full-blown problems. The result is that at 53 years of age I am healthy and feel good enough to embark upon this new career path as a Naturopath.

Human beings are allowed choices in all realms of life. It seems fundamentally unfair that we are not allowed to choose where to go to receive health care. In a

non-prescriptive authority state I cannot choose to see a Naturopath and receive all of the services I need in order to maintain wellness because Naturopaths cannot prescribe certain services, which I require. Imagine how much healthier the citizens of CT would be if they were allowed to choose pro-active wellness by designing a healthy lifestyle plan and nutritional counseling with their Naturopath instead of simply contacting an MD after they were already sick. MDs are important yet Naturopaths are important as well, and should be granted prescriptive authority, not so as to replace MDs, but so as to compliment them as an integral part of the health care system. Such a measure could significantly reduce the cost of health care in this state for all of its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

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