



**Steve Paine, OMD, L.Ac.**

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RE: HB 6987

March 13, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Crisco and Representative Riley, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Steve Paine, and I am president of the National Guild of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. We are Guild 62 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union and we are affiliated with the National AFL-CIO and with the Connecticut state AFL-CIO. We serve members in Connecticut and 15 other states and the District of Columbia. Our Guild is dedicated to providing the American public with the highest level of acupuncture and oriental medicine care available anywhere in the world.

We request that the Connecticut Legislature mandate malpractice insurance coverage for licensed acupuncturists as a condition for licensure and re-licensure. The purpose of this legislation is follow the standards adhered to by other state licensed healthcare providers to insure and protect the health and safety of Connecticut citizens.

Mandating malpractice coverage would, defacto, include licensed acupuncturists as "Health care providers" in Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20 - 13j. Physician profiles. Establishment. Public availability. This aligns with the commitment of licensed acupuncturists to improve our contribution to public health because the mandate for malpractice insurance subjects us to the scrutiny of the DPH for much more accountability and monitoring of our activities, as detailed in the provisions of the section. The specific provisions are on the bottom of page 15 and all of page 16, page 17 and half of page 18.

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/practitioner\\_licensing\\_and\\_investigations/plis/physician/mdlaw.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/practitioner_licensing_and_investigations/plis/physician/mdlaw.pdf)

The list of providers licensed acupuncturists will be added to is as follows:

Sec. 20-13j. Physician profiles. Establishment. Public availability.

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; and

(2) "Health care provider" means: (A) A physician licensed under this chapter; (B) a dentist licensed

under chapter 379; (C) a chiropractor licensed under chapter 372; (D) an optometrist licensed under

chapter 380; (E) a podiatrist licensed under chapter 375; (F) a natureopath licensed under chapter 373;

(G) a dental hygienist licensed under chapter 379a;

(H) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378; or

(I) a physical therapist licensed under chapter 376.

We want to be included in this section as:

"(H) a licensed acupuncturist licensed under chapter Connecticut General Statutes 384c"

Thank you very much for your attention.

Respectfully,

*Steve Paine*

Steve Paine, OMD (Hong Kong), L.Ac. (CT, HI)

President, National Guild of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

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