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I am writing in support of the bill brought forth on behalf of homeopathic practice within Connecticut.

My background:

I am a physician previously living and practicing in CT until moving to MD in 2003. My training is in internal medicine. I did my medical school training at the University of Connecticut school of medicine from 1984-1988 and completed my residency and fellowship in Internal Medicine at Hartford Hospital thru 1992. I then practiced in Connecticut and in numerous hospitals throughout CT until moving to Maryland. After completing my training in internal medicine, I became interested in homeopathic medicine thru a friend and colleague. The results she was achieving with her patients were quite remarkable and piqued my curiosity and desire to make a true difference in the lives of my patients. I've tended to be more holistically oriented and felt that natural medicines if prescribed and prepared properly were both safe and effective. I then began a formal study of this discipline. I continue to practice and study homeopathic medicine. It is truly one of the most remarkable forms of treatment I have ever witnessed, particularly because it is both safe and effective. I have served on the board of directors of the national center for homeopathy (NCH) for 10 years and taught in and lectured at numerous homeopathic seminar and training programs within the US. I have studied with and have been trained by many professional homeopathic practitioners (CCH certified) throughout my career. As a result, I consider myself well versed in the science, politics and educational requirements and training demanded of homeopathic practitioners within the U.S.

In my professional opinion, nationally board certified homeopathic practitioners should be allowed to practice within the state of Connecticut (and every other state) for a number of reasons. First of all, we have worked diligently over the past decade to standardize homeopathic education, training, and testing in the US. The national certification designated as "CCH" stands for Certified Classical Homeopath and is granted only after rigorous oral and written exams requiring submission of numerous successfully treated cases followed over years. These cases are assiduously supervised, as clinical supervision is a strict requirement of the training of certified homeopathic practitioners. As a profession, homeopathy has worked tirelessly to develop standardized educational standards and testing in order to ensure the safe and efficacious treatment of patient/clients. As a medical physician, I initially had numerous clinical concerns. Rather than be ignorant, narrow-minded and an obstructionist, however, I instead chose to assist in the training and supervision of homeopathic students and contribute to this profession my expertise in medicine. Students are required to take anatomy, physiology and

pathophysiology. A great deal of time is devoted to both acute and chronic medical/surgical conditions which must be referred to conventionally trained medical and surgical practitioner. I am pleased with the rigor of the training and the testing of homeopathic practitioners who have earned this prestigious national certification (CCH). The homeopathic educational organizations and councils have been very open to the contribution and engagement of licensed medical professionals. As a result of collective efforts over decades, the CHE and CCH have developed strict standards and competencies. Most all recognized homeopathic training programs have licensed medical professionals actively involved in the education and supervision of their students.

It is thereby my professional medical opinion that as long as a homeopathic practitioner has been granted this prestigious and advanced national board certification, they should be allowed to legally practice homeopathic medicine within CT. Homeopathic medicines are safe, non-toxic and efficacious in the hands of trained and qualified professionals. These FDA-regulated medicines (homeopathic pharmacies must satisfy strict FDA guidelines in the preparation of homeopathic medicines. This is not the case for many nutraceutical products commonly sold. Research has shown homeopathic medicines are safe and efficacious, when properly prescribed; safer, in fact, than many over the counter and prescription-based pharmaceuticals. As a Chief Safety and Quality Officer for Shore Health System and the University of MD Healthcare System (2006-2011), I have intimately witnessed serious, life-threatening and even deadly complications and adverse drug events from even the most properly prescribed and administered pharmaceuticals. Homeopathic medicines do not carry these same risks. That alone is one of the main reasons I made the choice to study and practice homeopathy over 20 years ago. The past 20 years has shown great progress in the training and standardized testing of homeopathic practitioners. The research base for its safety and efficacy has continued to grow as well. I refer you to the research section on homeopathic medicine at the national center for homeopathy's database at www.nationalcenterforhomeopathy.org for more information. I am available for questions or discussion. I lived and worked most of my life in CT. I continue to have numerous friends and family members in CT, as well as many many former patients who anticipate seeing this bill pass once and so they can remain in the State and see qualified homeopathic practitioners. At this point many people leave the state and travel to NY, MA, RI or other states to visit a CCH qualified practitioner. I, therefore, am expertly qualified to speak on behalf of this proposed bill and am happy to make myself available for questions, concerns or discussion.

Most respectfully yours,

Amalia Punzo, MD