

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED BILL 5915
February 23, 2015

I am Joy Pacitto MS, CCH, a nationally certified classical homeopath. After decades of study and dedication to my profession I, along with my colleagues, seek the ability to be professionally recognized in our home state of CT. I am strongly in favor of having the opportunity to offer homeopathic services, which are safe, gentle and affordable, to my local community. Until now I have had to travel out-of-state to serve families with homeopathic care. I ardently support the passage of HB 5915. This not only will allow homeopaths to practice in CT but elevates the standard of care by only allowing homeopaths who have earned a CCH credential to practice.

Nationally certified classical homeopaths are required to have a knowledge of the signs and symptoms of human disease. In order to sit for the CCH exams homeopaths must provide documentation of completing 33 credit hours in Anatomy/Physiology and Pathology/Disease training at an accredited college or as part of the homeopathic school program. A CPR course is also recommended.

As part of the certification exam, the homeopath must pass the Medical Sciences portion in order to earn certification. It is this training that educates homeopaths to recognize conditions and make referrals in situations where treatment is more appropriately administered by other health care professionals, e.g. psychiatrists, psychotherapists, medical doctors and others.

Homeopaths are trained to assess the appropriateness of homeopathic care and well as the homeopath's limitations of competence for the safety and benefit of the client. The safety of the client and the quality of care is of the highest priority for the homeopath practitioner.

CCH homeopaths are non-medical practitioners. We do not treat, diagnose, administer injections nor touch a client's body in any way regarding any condition/diagnosis the client may have.

Each practitioner must have knowledge of medical terminology, clinical pathophysiology and therapeutics sufficient to allow the homeopath to interface with the client or other practitioners as needed. It is also recommended that the homeopath be familiar with typical diagnostic tests and therapeutics related to each condition.

The Council for Homeopathic Certification believes and supports the fact that a clear working knowledge of pathology and human disease is needed both for the homeopath's protection as it is for the client's well being and safety. Their goal is to certify that each homeopath completes the rigorous training that is necessary for competence, meets a verifiable standard that is safe and capable and follows ethical guidelines that keep the clients safe from harm.

Finally, within the scope of the homeopath's disclaimer and consent form, it is made clear to the new client that she/he must have a primary care physician. The homeopath will have an open discussion, at the start, highlighting the fact that client will must maintain responsibly for her/his well care. This includes making preventative medical visits, as well as, following up with specialists for appropriate care.

Anecdotal testimony from my practice:

A 53 year old woman came to receive help for headaches occurring 1-2 times per week. They started in the evening and were gone by the morning. She was very stressed and cried.

I referred her to her physician for the headaches and the effect of stress on her well-being. He examined her, ran appropriate tests and told her she was medically sound.

She returned and upon further homeopathic investigation she explained her husband was an alcoholic. He drank throughout the evening on a nightly basis. As he drank, he became very quiet and refused to interact with her. She was angry and hurt. She did not have the courage to express her feelings to her husband. She was timid.

After taking the recommended homeopathic remedy she 'found her voice' and was able to speak more openly to her husband.

He did not know she felt this way. He agreed to delay his drinking until 10 PM each night and spend early evening hours with her. The headaches disappeared.

This is an example of how a homeopath refers to a medical practitioner to examine the client for any underlying cause of the presenting symptoms. In this woman's case, she and I had peace of mind in knowing that there was no disease process and we could proceed holistically with homeopathic care.

Joy Pacitto MS, CCH
February 20, 2015