

Testimony of Annik Chamberlin, PharmD presented to the Public Health  
Committee Regarding Inclusion of Prescriptive Authority for Naturopathic Medicine Physicians in  
**H.B. No. 6797 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY**

March 13, 2015

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Annik Chamberlin and I am a pharmacist and owner of Beacon Prescriptions Compounding Pharmacy in Southington, CT. I am submitting testimony today to support the inclusion of previously submitted language to **HB 6797** regarding specific limited prescriptive authority for naturopathic physicians (ND).

If NDs had prescriptive authority in CT, they would have the ability to service the patients without having them inconvenienced by delays and disruptions in care, as well as redundant office visits, which are costly to the patient and the health care system, due to unnecessary referrals for routine problems that could have been safely and immediately dealt with if Connecticut naturopathic physicians had a reasonably more comprehensive and modern scope of practice like our colleagues around the country, including in other New England states such as VT, New Hampshire, and Maine. NDs in other states have prescribed drugs to their patients for many years without leaving debility, harm, and death in their wake. If that existed to any degree it would be easy to uncover.

I have had the opportunity to work with patients who see NDs and are then referred to MDs. My experience has shown that the ND uses medication judiciously and perhaps more conservatively than their conventional medical counterparts. I have also experienced the delays and disruptions in care that occur because the NDs have to refer to MDs because they do not have prescriptive authority. The NDs have usually done all the work up and diagnosis of the patient and is sending the patient to the MD to get the prescription for treatment.

Please support specific limited prescriptive authority for naturopathic physicians.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Annik Chamberlin, PharmD  
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