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**SUBJECT: HB6797**

*(Permitting Naturopathic doctors ("ND's") in Connecticut to have prescriptive authority consistent with their training and in line with many other states that license ND's.)*

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

I have sought medical care from naturopathic physicians for more than 22 years, both in New York and in Connecticut. I believe that the naturopathic medical approach offers patients an important alternative, and I would like my ND, as well as other NDs in our state, to have medication prescriptive authority. This authority would be consistent with their current training and in line with what many other states have already granted.

There have been many instances over the past two decades where my naturopathic doctor has provided both an invaluable perspective and course of action to deal with a medical issue. Allowing NDs to have prescriptive authority would benefit all patients in Connecticut because it would enable naturopathic doctors to provide conservative medication therapy when needed. Currently, patients have no choice but to go back and forth between their MD and ND when dealing with a medical issue that requires prescription medication. And, while some MDs in Connecticut are willing to collaborate with NDs, others are not. The result is often duplicate costs for office visits and testing, not to mention the ineffective utilization of patients' time and energy. Since NDs are comprehensively trained to utilize prescriptive medications when necessary, and other states have sanctioned prescriptive authority for years, why shouldn't Connecticut join them? As a state that leads in so many other areas of healthcare, why can't we allow NDs to prescribe when warranted?

Finally, as the delivery of healthcare changes in our state and in our nation, naturopathic doctors can fill an important role by adding to the pool of experienced primary care professionals. Allowing them prescriptive authority allows patients greater freedom to choose their primary care physician while making the delivery of healthcare services more efficient and cost-effective.

Once again, I ask you to support providing prescriptive authority to naturopathic physicians. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Deirdre Kamlani*