

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing in support of proposed HB 6797 which authorizes the Department of Public Health and State Board of Naturopathic Examiners to seek recommendations to expand the scope of practice for naturopaths to include prescribing, dispensing and administration of certain drugs and set examination requirements or qualifications to allow for expansion of such services.

Allowing naturopaths to administer certain medicines, such as antibiotics, will eliminate duplicative doctor visits, reduce the amount of time patients have to be out of work and go a long way to reduce health care expenses in Connecticut. Currently, if a naturopath determines that a person has an illness that requires antibiotics, that person has to go to a medical doctor to get the prescription. This is a waste of time and money for everyone.

I further recommend that the above group seek to ensure that those pharmaceuticals issued by naturopaths are covered by insurance. Insurance companies pay for our visits to the naturopath, but then don't pay for what they "prescribe". The "prescriptions" are generally less expensive and tend to treat the cause rather than the symptom.

I have had excellent results with treatment by naturopaths. When the dermatologist said it may be impossible to get to the route of my hives and prescribed medicine to treat the symptoms, the naturopath quickly said "we need to get rid of those hives", and did. I have a special needs daughter that was on meds for seizures. I had a naturopath treat her and she no longer gets seizures and is off the meds- with the blessing of her neurologist. Naturopaths are very in tune with chemical reactions in the body. Please give them the authority to prescribe certain routine traditional medicines when it is needed.

My experience is that the naturopath will recommend a patient to a medical doctor for medical treatments that are not routine. Please support this bill and allow those of us who wish to be treated by holistic medicine to not have to seek other doctors, spend the time and money to get a prescription when the naturopath knows such treatment is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Mariani