

13 March, 2015

To Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing this letter as a Naturopathic Medicine and Acupuncture Student at University of Bridgeport, as well as a SPC in the US Army National Guard, to show **my support and ask for your support on HB 6797** as it is important to modernize our scope of practice with these times that have been changing. We are presently in a shortage of Primary Care Physicians and our health care system even though highly technological still have room for improving and being more efficient and effective. I believe that Naturopathic Physicians have the ability to help improve the overall health care system both in the State and the Country as a whole. Making subtle changes even in the smallest of areas can create a positive ripple effect which we are seeking to gain as a profession.

As part of HB 6797, we are seeking the ability to have prescriptive rights included for our scope of practice. This will be beneficial to current practicing NDs, ND students and Naturopathic patients. Speaking from a student's perspective, having prescriptive rights in our scope of practice means we would have the opportunity to learn more about pharmaceuticals drugs in school. It would allow for us to have more opportunities to study about herb/drug interactions and broaden our education curriculum. Looking into the future, as a Naturopathic Physician, I will be able to work with my patients who want to reduce the use of pharmaceutical drugs and the amounts they are using. Part of an individual's progress towards a good health is their involvement in their personal health, and taking the time to work with patients to help achieve these goals of wanting to reduce the amount of drugs that they use will be a step in the right direction for a better health. In addition, there are cases where prescription drugs would be more effective than just herbs, and as a Naturopathic Physician, having these prescriptive rights; we would be able to serve our patients better.

Being a SPC in the Army National Guard, I foresee myself working with Active and Reserve Military members, and Veterans. The use of prescriptive drugs is common in many health conditions that this population deals with, including pain management and PTSD. There are many options for supportive therapies that require less drugs being used to help those that serve our country and help to fight for our daily freedom to live in this country. Having prescriptive rights as part of our profession, would allow me to work with this population of Service men and women to help provide alternative therapies and reducing drug uses, or being able to prescribe drugs when most needed to help these patients achieve their optimal health.

We live in a country that we call free, and we have people that fight for freedom in our country, but yet we have this limiting factor in our health care system. **As a current member of the military and a Naturopathic Student, I ask for your support on this bill (HB 6797) so I can become the best Naturopathic Physician I can be, and be able to maximize my potential in helping the patients that seek me as their health care provider in the future.**

Thank You,

Yours Respectfully,

SPC Ramdhan, Radley M

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