

I am writing to ask you to please support HB 5534- an act concerning the practice of Naturopathy.

For the last 15 years, I have been practicing as a naturopathic physician. My medical training was in Seattle, Washington at Bastyr University after graduating magna cum laude from University of Arizona as a phi beta kappa.

As a naturopathic physician, I completed a 5 year post graduate degree and an 18 month residency at Evergreen Center for Integrative Medicine, where medical doctor, naturopathic doctors and other practitioners collaborated to provide integrative care for our patients.

I was trained with a full scope of practice, as a primary care provider. This included some prescriptive authority, ability to vaccinate and administer injections, minor surgical office procedures, etc.

Since moving to CT in 2002, I have been practicing under the outdated scope of practice, which limits my ability to care for patients to the full extent of my expertise. Natural treatments are my first and most preferable first line treatments, but there are times when prescriptive rights would be appropriate. If I dip a urine or send for a culture and diagnose a bladder or kidney infection or a positive strep culture, currently I have to refer to another provider. This delays treatment, wastes time, costs patients additional copay and is an inefficient system when I am qualified to care for these patients if the law was updated.

I am grateful to have a lovely network of medical doctors in every specialty to collaborate with and I do refer when appropriate and get referrals in return. I also consult for Middlesex Hospital's Integrative Medicine Program for the last 7 years, providing insight to family medicine resident's cases in a grand rounds setting.

The existing law is 90 years old and does not reflect the modern training of naturopathic physicians. Our neighboring states, such as New Hampshire and Vermont have modern scopes which include prescriptive authority and the doctors practicing there have demonstrated safe and responsible practice.

Our practice cares for over 4000 patients in CT and I appreciate your consideration for this bill. Please allow us to better serve our patient population and modernize our law.

Thank you,  
Amanda Levitt, ND

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