



CONNECTICUT
NATURAL
HEALTH
SPECIALISTS

March 3, 2016

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am writing for your support of bill 5534, for the expansion and updating of the current naturopathic physician scope of practice law. As a practicing naturopathic physician in the state of Connecticut, I routinely am referring patients to their local walk in clinic for simple antibiotics for positive strep throat cultures and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in addition to spending extra time coordinating care with other physicians in order to expedite patient care. We are asking to update the law as written to include a moderate prescriptive authority in order to avoid unnecessary physician referrals for uncomplicated conditions. In order to implement this, we are intending on offering required continued education hours specifically in pharmacology to ensure safety and to provide up to date information.

It is time for Connecticut to update the existing naturopathic scope like many other states in New England have already. With a shortage of primary care physicians, naturopathic doctors are prime candidates to help fill that gap. With the ability to prescribe uncomplicated pharmaceuticals we will then be allowed to step into that role.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at my office for further information or discussion around bill 5534. I appreciate your time and consideration in the matter and look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ashley Burkman ND