

**Testimony for HB 5534 3-7-16**  
**An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy**

Senator Geratanna, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

My name is Enrico Liva. I am a Registered Pharmacist and a practicing Naturopathic Physician from Middletown. I believe that passage of this law will result in many benefits to the citizens of CT

- The requested prescriptive authority for Naturopathic physicians will significantly help the citizens of CT by providing healthcare options that they do not currently have. CT citizens are at a healthcare disadvantage because of this very old practice act.
- Connecticut law governing the practice of naturopathic medicine is 90 years old and has not kept pace with education and clinical advances made by other states that license Naturopathic physicians. This law needs to be modernized.
- CT Naturopathic physicians pass a rigorous national board exam called NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam). CT Naturopathic physicians are comprehensively trained to provide primary care services to CT residents. An updated Naturopathic physician practice act enables NDs to serve their Connecticut patients by providing many primary care services and other treatments that are not currently available to them.
- ***We ask for your support to allow Naturopathic physicians limited prescriptive drug authority consistent with many other states that license NDs, including the New England states of VT, NH and ME.***
- Why do Naturopathic physicians want drug authority? This authority saves our patients time, money, hassle and provides comprehensive treatment that is delivered without delay.
- SAFETY & MALPRACTICE RECORD - Naturopathic physicians have had drug prescribing rights in other states for many years and have a safety and malpractice record that is excellent. Refer to the 2013 Vermont Office of Professional Regulation report on the Naturopathic Profession, page #5 SAFETY and MALPRACTICE RECORD.
- The University of Bridgeport, College of Naturopathic Medicine program presently has difficulty efficiently meeting its educational mission because of the current outdated law. The UB College Naturopathic Medicine program could grow the student body and graduate more trained doctors, attract more diverse faculty and be eligible to apply for funding to participate in research.
- The current law limits the scope of health care services UB can provide to many thousands of needy people who visit the busy *UB Clinics every year*.
- A modernized law with drug authority helps newly graduated UB NDs stay in CT and more Naturopathic physicians would come to CT from other schools. This is clearly an economic benefit for the state.

Passage of this bill is simply a must as it will benefit the citizens of CT, the UB Naturopathic College, as well as the local and state economy. Please support the passage of this bill.