

**Hello,**

**I ask you to support HB 5534 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY.** It is time to update the 90 year old scope of practice for CT Naturopathic physicians. An updated scope of practice for Naturopathic Physicians will provide many more primary care services and be a huge benefit to the citizens of CT. Other states that license Naturopathic physicians have allowed prescriptive drug authority for years and the overall safety record is excellent. I believe this step will lead more of our community to seek preventative and wellness care. The N.P. limited scope prevents many patients from benefiting from the broad range of effective natural care methods employed by N.P.s.

Lastly, this modernized scope of practice will significantly support and strengthen the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine program which is the only one East of the Mississippi. The UB Naturopathic Medicine program will prosper and grow as a result of the passage of this law. Right now the east coast loses most Naturopathic candidates to Washington and California where laws are favorable. Lastly, passage will allow the UB clinics that see 25+ thousand patients per year provide many more primary care services to the poor and needy that frequent those clinics. These services are excellent for raising the quality of life and improving our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

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