

Dear Public Health Committee

Please support HB 5534 to modernize the Naturopathic Medical act. The current law is 90 years old and deserves updating.

As a Naturopathic Physician , practicing in Connecticut for over 30 years, I am frequently my patients' primary health care provider. However, when they need a basic prescription, they incur the additional expense of needing to see an additional provider. My colleagues in other states have safely used prescriptions for years. In fact the current law does not allow me to prescribe even basic things like B 12 shots , which I was taught in school 35 years ago. The students preceptoring with me from the Naturopathic Medical program at the University of Bridgeport usually tell me they have no intention of staying in Connecticut, because the current scope of practice severely limits their ability to use what they learn in school. This impedes resolving the shortage of health care providers. Modernization of the scope of practice for Naturopathic Physicians will also have a positive effect of enabling the students at the University of Bridgeport Naturopathic Medical clinics to provide more primary care services to the many thousands of poor patients who rely on those clinics for their health needs.

I am asking you to please support HB 5534.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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