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March 4, 2016

Public Health Committee;

Re: Bill HB 5534

I ask you to support HB 5534: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY. I firmly believe 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 to and greatly benefit the citizens of CT. Other states that license Naturopathic physicians have allowed prescriptive drug authority for years and the overall safety record is excellent. In addition, this modernized scope of practice will significantly support and strengthen the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine program, the only such program east of the Mississippi. The UB Naturopathic Medicine program will prosper and grow as a result of the passage of this law. Lastly, passage will allow the UB clinics, that serve 25+ thousand patients per year, to provide many more primary care services to the poor and needy that frequent those clinics.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Brautigam