Good Morning, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses’ Association (CNA). I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association. **I speak in opposition of: Raised Bill No. 5534 An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy. This proposal does not specify to whom this request applies. It assumes understanding.**

Raised Bill No. **5534 An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy** is asking for expansion of the role of the Naturopathic provider. Advanced Naturopathic Care includes administration of Drugs, based on 45 hours of Pharmacological education.
Naturopathic practice includes the following diagnostic and therapeutic modalities: clinical and laboratory diagnostic testing, nutritional medicine, botanical medicine, naturopathic physical medicine (including naturopathic manipulative therapy), public health measures, hygiene, counseling, minor surgery, homeopathy, acupuncture, prescription medication, intravenous and injection therapy, and naturopathic obstetrics (natural childbirth).

This legislation is requesting expanded scope of practice for medication administration and a additional title delineation as an Advanced Naturopathic Provider. Naturopathic Physicians have already participated in a Scope of Practice Review.” The following conclusions the scope of practice request submitted by CNPA in 2013.

In reviewing this scope of practice request, the difference between licensed naturopathic physicians and unlicensed practitioners of naturopathy is an important distinction to understand. In Connecticut, only licensed naturopathic physicians who have met rigorous education and training requirements as well as passed a national competency examination are legally able to practice naturopathy. Individuals who have completed other naturopathic education or other training who may consider themselves practitioners of naturopathy often have a very different philosophy regarding medical practice including but not limited to issues such as childhood immunizations/vaccinations. These individuals may not practice in Connecticut or use the title “naturopath” or any word or title to induce the belief that the individual is engaged in the practice of naturopathy. The scope of practice request submitted by CNPA and reviewed by this scope of practice review committee only applies to licensed naturopathic physicians.
Therefore we believe that without a Scope of Practice review specific to Naturopaths this legislation should not move forward. This process was legislated specifically to provide objective unbiased evidence that the expansion of practice is safe based on “Research Evidence” and that the expansion will not in any way put the health of the Public at risk. This request leaves many questions unanswered.

Therefore I urge you to vote in opposition to Raised Bill No. 5534 An Act Concerning the Practice of Naturopathy until a formal Scope of Practice review is conducted with specific recommendations that applies to Naturopaths.

Thank you
Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN
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Professor Emeritus Central Connecticut State University