

Dear respected members of The Public Health Committee,
My name is Dr. Robert Murphy and I am a CT licensed naturopathic physician and am also a CT licensed register nurse. I have practiced in CT since 1983 and also work at the University of Bridgeport School of Naturopathic Medicine as an adjunct clinical professor. I am also past chairman of the CT State Board of Naturopathic Examiners. I ask you to support HB 5534, as it is long overdue to update the 90 year old scope of practice for CT Naturopathic Physicians. With an update to the scope of practice, Naturopathic Physicians will be able to provide many more primary care services which will benefit the citizens of CT. Allowing Naturopaths limited prescriptive privileges would reduce the overall cost of health care in CT by reducing redundancy of care, ie. the need to refer a newly diagnosed Lyme disease patient to another practitioner to prescribe antibiotics. In addition, a modernized scope of practice will support and strengthen the University of Bridgeport Naturopathic Medicine program. This will allow instructors and clinical supervisors at the UB Naturopathic Clinic to more efficiently teach our naturopathic medical students in order to better care for the underserved population that are seen in our clinics. This update will also serve to keep the talent of the UB graduating Naturopathic Doctors in state to give much needed primary care. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to give testimony and for your anticipated support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Murphy RN, ND