



To: Senator Crisco, Representative Megna,
Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson,
Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

From: **Kenneth R Hoffman, L.Ac.**, Medical Director, Sophia Natural Health Center

Re: Acupuncture Bill HB5359

My name is Ken Hoffman. I am a licensed Acupuncturist for over 10 years. I am the Medical Director for Sophia Natural Health Center in Brookfield Ct. In the time I have been in practice I have seen over 6,000 patients and run one of the largest Holistic practices in the State. I am also the host of the radio show "The Natural Medicine Connection" on 800AM, WLAD. It is the only local holistic talk show in Fairfield County.

I have had the opportunity to see many people restore their health using the acupuncture treatments we provide. I have seen jobless people get back to work, reversal of heart failure and people with debilitating diseases get their life back.

I have also seen where patients have stopped care because their insurance would not pay for treatments and they could not afford to continue even though they were improving.

I wholly support this acupuncture Bill HB5359 so that I can continue to provide quality healthcare to the citizens of our State. Not only do we provide a unique specialized service that works but we also do this while saving the insurance companies lots of money.

One example of this is a patient of mine who was suffering from a debilitating digestive disease. She was constantly missing work and was completely unproductive. She was on medication that was barely managing the condition. Within a few weeks, I was able to get the condition symptoms under control and within a few months, she was in remission without any medication. She told me that prior to coming to me she was spending approximately \$50,000 per year to manage her condition including 10% of which was an out of pocket expense for her. Since she is now in remission and requires nominal medical care for 5 years, I estimate that I have saved the insurance company about \$250,000. This is a common story in my practice. She was fortunate to have a dual working family that was able to afford the out of pocket expense. Over the years I have seen many more that could not.

The passing of the bill HB5359 providing parity to us as licensed healthcare providers is only fair to patients. It would provide much more patient's access to our care at a significant cost savings to the State.

Thank you,
Ken Hoffman, L.Ac