

NGAOM



National Guild  
of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine  
OPEIU GUILD 62, AFL-CIO

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February 3, 2015

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT

RE: HB-5359

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of HB-5359 which is presently before the Connecticut General Assembly. This bill will require health insurance coverage for services rendered by an acupuncturist to the same extent coverage is provided for services rendered by a physician.

I am the National Director of Education for the National Guild of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine. Our Guild 62 is a member of the Office and Professional Employees International Union which is a member of the AFL-CIO. I am not an acupuncturist. I am a health professions researcher who has worked with acupuncture training programs for a decade. My other 30 years in healthcare included training physicians and physician assistants. I have published the only papers to survey the acupuncture workforce. My most recent publication will appear in the peer-reviewed journal EXPLORE in this coming May. That paper reviews acupuncture laws throughout the nation.

Acupuncture is a physiologically based primary health care approach that utilizes a comprehensive medical model internally consistent with specific strategies for dealing with a wide extent of illnesses and health dysfunction. The medical literature includes more than sufficient evidence recognizing the benefits of acupuncture as a useful treatment for many kinds of pain, especially when the injured party seeks treatment and recovery other than surgery and pharmaceuticals.

Our Guild works with the largest professional group, the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, to make sure acupuncturists are trained in mainstream medicine. We work to guarantee that every patient treated by an acupuncturist is treated according to standards expected from any other mainstream provider. Please support this Bill.

I am yours, sincerely,

Steven H. Stumpf, Ed.D.