

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

Ingri Boe-Wiegaard, (L.Ac.) Testimony on Acupuncture Bill HB5359

Ct. Association for Professional Acupuncture, Pres.

Acupuncture practice- 30 years in CT.

1. CT Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, CT chapter of the National Guild for Acupuncture, and the CT Assoc. for Professional Acupuncture are fully supporting this bill HB5359.
2. Our goal is to achieve private insurance coverage for Acupuncture services. Patients who use Acupuncture want coverage.
3. According to the National Institute for Health study, 3.1 million adults visited acupuncturists in a year.
4. Acupuncture has been covered in the state of Washington since 1994 (20 yrs). Legislators there approved coverage based on the premise of fairness to all providers and access for patients. British Columbia, Canada, covers it in their health plan. 4 U.S. States now include Acupuncture in their Essential Health Benefits.
5. Studies show that Acupuncture is cost effective compared to regular medical services for many patient groups. Savings amount to \$10,000 - 30,000 per patient. I have provided abstracts of numerous studies in support of this. (in my addendum which has been submitted.)