

Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians

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Statement in Opposition to Senate Bill 261 – An Act Concerning Naturopathic Medicine

Public Health Committee

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The Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians opposes Senate Bill 261 - An Act Concerning Naturopathic Medicine and respectfully urges this committee to oppose this bill.

Senate Bill 261 would allow persons practicing naturopathy to administer vitamin B-12 by injection. Our opposition to this bill is three-fold.

First, injecting vitamin B-12 has the potential to mask medical conditions that, if not treated, will, in many cases, result in patient harm. This is particularly true for injected vitamin B-12 because of its increased effectiveness versus oral administration. Medical conditions such as Crohn's disease, pancreatic insufficiency, autoimmune atrophic gastritis, and adverse effects of certain prescription medications, as well as other potentially treatable diseases that result in pernicious anemia, may be masked, and thus missed, by a naturopath providing injectable B-12. Naturopaths are not rigorously trained in these conditions and are not able to apply evidence-based medicine to treat these conditions.

In addition, it is not just our opinion that naturopaths should not administer injections. Even leading naturopathic associations are divided over the administration of

injectable medications. The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians and the American Naturopathic Medical Association, two leading naturopathic organizations, are divided over this and other issues regarding the scope of naturopathic medicine.

Our third objection to this bill is that it attempts to circumvent the process that this committee put in place for determining scope of practice issues. Public Act 11-209 – An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professions, establishes a formal process for the submission and review of requests from health care professions seeking to revise their existing scope of practice or to establish a new scope of practice. Under the act, the scope of practice review committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the scope of practice requests and providing written assessments to the Public Health Committee, including any legislative recommendations. There is no evidence that this process was followed here. It is our belief that this process results in outcomes which best reflect the concerns of all parties involved.

We strongly urge this committee to oppose this bill.

**For more information, please call:
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