

Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health.

Thank you for providing an avenue for me to submit written testimony to your committee.

I would like to ask that you please add Representative Ferraro's Complementary and Alternative Health bill language onto HB550. I would like you to support my access to complementary and alternative health practitioners because it provides me with a much-desired service in my health care choices. There are many non-invasive gentle healing practices used by thousands of Connecticut consumers, such as aroma therapy, healing touch, reflexology, and Reiki. I use these modalities for my health. These are helpful vocations that so many people like myself use.

With this bill, complementary and alternative practitioners will have clear guardrails as to activities prohibited by unlicensed complementary and alternative practitioners and what type of disclosures are required. If a complementary and alternative practitioner does not abide by the required parameters of the exemption, then current law will be in place, as always, to address the situation of unlicensed practice.

I ask you to support this bill because right now in Connecticut, unlike eleven other states, those who practice these methods and who are not conventional health care professionals can technically be considered in violation of health occupation laws for practice without a license even though they are not practicing a conventional health care profession. I would like it to be very clear in the law that these practitioners are protected and accessible to me if they avoid the required prohibited acts and give out their disclosures.

Please support Representative Ferraro's solution. Eleven other states have passed protective legislation including Rhode Island and Maine. Massachusetts has a similar bill that has already been successfully heard in the Joint Public Health Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.