

Connecticut Governor Rell signs Acupuncture Bill to Help Protect Consumer Choice in Healthcare

On May 8, 2009 Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell signed into law Public Act 09-21-**"An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture"**. The law provides a title protection to Connecticut's licensed acupuncturists.

With the passage of this law, a health practitioner must be licensed by the state of Connecticut as an acupuncturist to use the title of "acupuncturist" or "licensed acupuncturist" (L.Ac.). Other less qualified professions will no longer be allowed to use either term professionally or in their promotional material or advertising.

The present educational standard for Licensed Acupuncturists is the master's degree program which requires approximately 3,000 hours of specialized training in Chinese Medical theory, diagnosis, treatment approaches, point location, needling techniques, and numerous related modalities. All licensed acupuncturists are required to pass a rigorous two day national exam (NCCAOM) and meet ongoing continuing education standards. Licensed Acupuncturists are highly trained independent professionals who provide safe and effective treatments based on an established body of medicine that is internationally recognized and practiced throughout the world.

Currently there are more than 25,000 Licensed Acupuncturists nationwide. That number is increasing each year as awareness of the health benefits of acupuncture continues to grow.

Passage of Connecticut's title protection for acupuncturists is the result of sustained hard work on the part of dedicated members of the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM), legislators and acupuncture patients. Passage of this title protection is a vital first step in clearing up consumer confusion regarding the training, qualifications and expertise of practitioners in the field of acupuncture. Now when choosing acupuncture care, Connecticut consumers will have a consistent and accurate way to easily identify and discern the nationally recognized experts in acupuncture.

For more information please contact:

Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine: www.csaom.org

American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine: www.aaaomonline.org

National Commission for Certification of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine:

www.nccaom.org