

April 11, 2019

**Subject: Testimony in Support LD 364:
"An Act To Establish the Right To Practice Complementary and Alternative Health Care Act"**

Greetings Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

My name is Dr Sarah Paton, I live in Portland and where I own and operate a Naturopathic family practice for the past 11 years.

I am a licensed Naturopathic doctor and professor of homeopathic medicine at the University of Southern Maine.

To earn my doctorate, I had extensive medical training to be eligible for licensure to practice Naturopathic medicine as a primary care doctor.

However there is one type of natural treatment called *homeopathic medicine that can be safely practiced, even without doctoral-level training*. This system is currently used in many government-supported healthcare systems worldwide, due to its' low cost and impressive clinical outcomes.

As a teacher and clinical mentor, I want hold low-cost homeopathic teaching clinics staffed by well-trained, but unlicensed, homeopathic practitioners and students. These clinics will make safe, effective homeopathic medicine available to thousands of Mainers who otherwise would not have access to this care.

In clinical studies, homeopathic medicine has demonstrated efficacy in treating addiction and decreases relapse rates of those struggling with opioid dependence. This bill would make available a safe and accessible method, which could help of turn the tide on the Opioid Crisis Maine is now facing.

Homeopathy is a non-toxic, inexpensive form of over-the-counter natural medicine with low side effects and a virtually no-risk profile. For this reason I hope you will vote to pass LD 364 to allow those practicing this gentle healing art to be of service to their fellow Mainers, without fear of being accused of "practicing medicine without a license."

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr Sarah Paton, ND
Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine
Portland, ME