



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION Testimony of

Department of Consumer Protection  
Commissioner Jerry Farrell, Jr.

Presented to the Public Health Committee

Friday, February 29, 2008

Regarding Governor's Bill No. 5037  
"An Act Concerning Methamphetamines."

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Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, and members of the Committee, I am Jerry Farrell, Jr., the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection. It is my pleasure to submit testimony to support the enactment of **Governor's Bill No. 5037, "An Act Concerning Methamphetamines."**

This bill is one of the Governor's proposals and is strongly supported by the Department. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug causing major health and safety issues in many states. This proposal will assist the Department's Drug Control Division in restricting the ability to purchase mass quantities of pseudophedrine, a necessary component in the manufacture of methamphetamine. With this legislation, we hope to prevent this drug from gaining a strong foothold in our State.

Because this proposal parallels the federal requirements already in place, retail outlets and consumers should not see the bill as a burden. The majority of vendors are in compliance with the requirement that pseudophedrine be kept behind the counter.

The proposal increases the criminal penalties related to the operation of drug factories, as referenced in Conn. Gen. Stat. §21a-277(c). This legislation also creates a mechanism to provide restitution for environmental damages caused by methamphetamine labs, since the toxic chemicals and substances resulting from this drug's manufacturing process typically remain on site.

The Department strongly urges passage of Governor's Bill No. 5037, and thanks the Committee members for their consideration of this very important bill.