

CONNECTICUT  
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ASSOCIATION



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Raised Bill 245.

Public Hearing: 2-29-08

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)  
DATE: FEBRUARY 29, 2008

RE: **OPPOSITION TO RAISED BILL 245 – AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNITY FOR  
TREATMENT OF DRUG OVERDOSES WITH OPIOID ANTAGONIST**

The CTLA opposes raised bill 245, and respectfully contends that the bill should be defeated.

This proposal attempts to expand the immunity in C.G.S. 17a-714a provided to licensed health care providers for dispensing or administering opioid antagonists.

Any expansion of this immunity provision is strongly opposed by the CTLA.

By removing the language “to a drug user in need of such intervention” in lines 6-7 and “to such person” in line 7 of the proposal, this bill allows a health care provider prescribing, administering or dispensing opioid antagonists immunity from suit by any citizen under any circumstance. The original intention of the law was to give the licensed health care provider immunity as against suit from the individual they are trying to help by administering the opioid antagonist.

**The CTLA feels strongly that broad expansions of immunity provisions such as this are against public policy, as they throw the net too wide, possibly encompassing citizens that may have legitimate causes of action and who were never intended to be covered.**

C.G.S. 17a-714a is a narrowly drafted immunity provision which deprives very few citizens of their rights to pursue legal action against health care providers and only when those providers need to act in emergency situations by administering upon them an opioid antagonist. This bill would deprive many citizens of their right to pursue legal action, even if they were not the ones the providers were intending to help! The CTLA feels the expansions sought in this proposal far overshoot the mark of the original intention of the existing law.

**WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO DEFEAT RAISED BILL 245. Thank you.**