

HB 6517

My name is John Cannarella and I am the President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. We represent those pharmacists in the state that perform monthly reviews and monitor drug therapies, drug interactions and adverse drug reactions for the elderly and disabled who reside in our LTC facilities.

Back when the Drug Return Bill was first introduced several years ago, our LTC pharmacies supported the bill. However despite the constant increases in drug prices, if you look at the dollars returned today compared to when the program first began you will see a dramatic drop to virtually zero.

The difference is the implementation of Medicare D. Almost 100% of those residents who reside in LTC facilities are dually eligible. That means that the PRIMARY payor for their medications is Medicare D (Federal). State Medicaid only pays the \$6 or \$1 copay. Because the Federal program makes any drug returns illegal, the State program has dried up. Only those medications where the PRIMARY payor is State Medicaid are covered under the Drug Return Program. However, even if it was allowed Federally, those funds would not come back to the State.

Most of the Medicaid dollars are spent on retail, the disabled, group homes and assisted living. Although this plan made sense at one time, it would little impact as written.

ASCP is committed to a more cost effective and efficient way for drug distribution and would like to move forward and work with you in the future to develop a working program that puts dollars back into the State Medicaid program.

Thank You

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