



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES, INC.

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Testimony before the General Law Committee on SB 325

An Act Concerning a Pharmacy Error Database and Pharmacy Commission Meeting Minutes

Representative Shapiro, Senator Colapietro and members of the General Law Committee, my name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director and lobbyist for the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies, a trade association which represents chain pharmacies across the state such as CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Shaw's, Price Chopper, Stop and Shop and Big Y. I am here today in opposition to SB 325 An Act Concerning Pharmacy Error Database and Pharmacy Commission Meeting Minutes.

Although the bill is well intentioned we feel that the effect of publishing the pharmacist's name and license numbers on public records would be disastrous. Pharmacies as well as the Pharmacy Commission and Drug Control work very hard to ensure that medication errors are not made, but because we are human they exist. We feel it is not only in the pharmacist's best interest, but also the patient's best interest if an error is admitted and dealt so we can determine why it occurred and rectify it. Confidentiality is essential to this process. If names and license numbers are published this will scare the pharmacist and will be an incentive for them to cover up or bury errors that they may have committed. This is the worst thing that could happen and is counter-intuitive to correction.

There are many reasons why an error is committed. The pharmacist may accidentally give the wrong strength of a medication, or grab a medication with a similar name. It could also be that the incorrect drug or dosage was prescribed by the physician. The Department of Consumer Protection does investigate each and every error that is reported to them. They also monitor individuals that have made errors to ensure they are making the appropriate steps to correct them or are abiding by the punitive action decided by the Pharmacy Commission.

We feel that there are many ways to correct errors without embarrassment. Pharmacists are responsible, highly educated professionals who try their best and dispense accurate prescriptions by the thousands per day. Just because a pharmacist makes an error does not mean they are not competent at their job. We are happy to work with the committee on alternate ways to achieve the same goal, preventing errors and providing the consumer the confidence that the appropriate oversight is in place. Thank you for allowing me to discuss this matter.

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• THE STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET COMPANY • WAL-MART •
• WALGREEN COMPANY • NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAIN DRUG STORES •