

1087



**Testimony of AARP Connecticut  
SB 1087, An Act Concerning ConnPACE Prescription Drug Reviews  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009**

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Gibbons and members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our members regarding SB 1087, An Act Concerning ConnPACE Prescription Drug Reviews. As you know, AARP is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization for people age 50 and over. We have more than 40 million members nationwide and over 629,000 in Connecticut.

SB 1087 would establish a ConnPACE prescription drug review pilot program for the purpose of reviewing the prescription drugs that are prescribed to ConnPACE program beneficiaries and eliminating the use of unnecessary drugs. Participants in the pilot program would meet in person with a licensed pharmacist who would conduct a comprehensive drug therapy review as described in the proposed legislation.

As new drugs flood the market everyday, figuring out safe ways to take medications becomes more and more complex, especially for people taking a large number of medications. Working with a licensed pharmacist could help ConnPACE beneficiaries learn about drug interactions and side effects, as well as assist them in managing risks associated with taking different drugs prescribed by different doctors. Using this information, it is also quite possible that people and the State of CT will be able to save money on their prescription drugs while also improving their health. So AARP supports "wise use of medication programs" such as is proposed in this legislation.

**AARP does ask that important consumer protection language be added to this proposed legislation. Such language should make it clear that ConnPACE beneficiaries will be given clear information that describes the pilot program and be given the opportunity to ask questions about the pilot. Participation in the pilot should at all times be voluntary on the part of the individual. They should be given the option of opting out of the pilot initially or at any point in time, without the fear of jeopardizing their ConnPACE benefits. The pilot also must comply with all state and federal laws governing the privacy of medical records.**