

Written Testimony of the

Connecticut ENT Society

Connecticut Urology Society

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society

In Opposition to

**S. B. 262, AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATIVE DRUG THERAPY
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS**

We share the concerns of the Connecticut State Medical Society regarding this bill. SB 262 represents a significant expansion of the scope of practice of pharmacists which would be ill-advised at this time. The pilot program it seeks to expand was to have a review and report on its effectiveness provided by the Commissioner's office. That review has not been published, to our knowledge. This expansion, then, puts the cart before the horse, seeking to extend the reach of a program before its effects and safety have been established. There are some significant problems with the proposed text, irrespective of this fundamental problem, however. . The wording of this bill allows "competent" pharmacists (an undefined term) to monitor and manage drug therapy for patients based on a collaborative agreement. The definition of "competent" will be determined by the Public Health Commissioner in regulations, as will the extent and nature of the "collaborative agreement". This lack of specificity raises significant concerns for the safety of patients participating in this program. The training and expertise needed to provide the collaborative care should be codified to protect patients.

Further, the bill places no limits on the spectrum of diseases that can be managed by these pharmacists. There are many conditions that would be inappropriate to manage in this way, and the effectiveness of this system has not yet been proven even for the narrow scope of diseases currently stipulated in law. This unfettered expansion creates many problems and safety concerns. For these reasons we urge you to reject SB262, or make significant modifications to its provisions.