

Testimony of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
Human Services Committee
Governor's Bill 1013, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget
Recommendations Concerning Human Services
March 15, 2011

On behalf of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **Governor's Bill 1013, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Human Services**

As a background, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) is the international professional association representing consultant and senior care pharmacists, providing leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to advance the practice of senior care pharmacy. Consultant and senior care pharmacists are essential participants in the health care system, recognized and valued for the practice of pharmaceutical care for the senior population and people with chronic illness. For millions of senior citizens and individuals with chronic illnesses, consultant and senior care pharmacists play a vital role in ensuring optimal drug therapy.

ASCP is concerned about the changes in reimbursement levels to Medicaid and other state assistance programs proposed in this bill. Since 1991, pharmacy reimbursement rates have declined steadily and any reduction in our rates would have a severe negative impact on our association's membership. These rates are critical to the success and survival of our State's long-term care pharmacies.

The Governor proposes to decrease the Medicaid reimbursement for pharmacies to align with those under the state employee and retiree contract (Projections are for reimbursement to be AWP - 17 or 18.5% plus a dispensing fee reduction of \$1.50 Generic reimbursement could decrease to AWP-68% plus the dispensing fee of \$1.50 - these are projections). This would account for more than a 50% reduction in the dispensing fee. Pharmacies rely on this fee, which has been reduced drastically the past few years, to cover their business costs.

We urge your rejection of this proposal.

Thank you,

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President, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, Connecticut Chapter