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Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of
House Bill 5610 An Act Concerning The Duties of Pharmacists
Submitted to the Public Health Committee
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Ken Ferrucci, Senior Vice President of Government and Society Affairs for the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS). On behalf of our more than 7,000 physicians and physician in training members thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to you today in support of House Bill 5610 An Act Concerning The Duties of Pharmacists.

For most patients the substitution of a generic for a name brand and even the substitution of the same medication between two different generic manufacturers are not noticeable. However, the Food and Drug Administration allows variations from one generic medication to the next. Although mainly in the inert ingredients, for people with epilepsy, these variations can have potentially devastating effects. What for most would be an innocuous change from one generic to another is dangerous for patients with epilepsy results in seizures, even on those who have been seizure free for years.

The legislation before you today contains languages that has been introduced, worked on and refined over several sessions. It is the product of countless discussions, debates, and compromises. Furthermore, it does not prohibit the switching from one generic to another. It merely requires that the physician provide consent to the change prior such a substitution being made. Such consent can be garnered through electronic means such as a facsimile or email. The requirement is reasonable, in the best interest of the patient and provides for the dispensing of a 72 hour emergency supply in the rare cases where physician consent is not immediately available.

Please support House Bill 5610