



*Quality is Our Bottom Line*

**Aging Committee Public Hearing**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012**

**Connecticut Association of Health Plans**

**Testimony Submitted in Opposition to**

**HB 5178 AAC Synchronizing Prescription Drug Refills**

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully urges the Committee's rejection of HB 5178 AAC Synchronizing Prescription Drug Refills.

Pharmacy is one the single largest drivers of health insurance cost in Connecticut. On average, prices increase between 15% to 20% a year.

The reasons for such increases are varied. The number of overall prescriptions issued has increased dramatically in recent years as new products come on line faster as a result of quicker FDA approval and, as always, consumer demand continues to escalate. In addition, the sheer volume of the rapidly aging baby boomer population adds appreciable demand that shows no sign of abating.

Understandably, employers who generally pay the bulk of health insurance premiums are looking to health plans to provide some means of cost control so that they can continue providing a pharmacy benefit which is not required by state law.

Health plans, like the State of Connecticut, are struggling to respond to these demands and at the same time provide members with broad access to a wide range of quality pharmacy services. HB 5178 would begin to erode the flexibility that insurers need in offering such benefits.

We respectfully urge the Committee to reject HB 5178. If passed, the increased costs will simply be borne by employers and consumers through increased health insurance premiums.

Thank you for your consideration.