CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Environment

Chief Anthony Salvatore, Chief Matthew Reed for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police departments in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities.

The Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association **OPPOSES** in part and **SUPPORTS** in part S.B. 92, AAC The Disposal and Collection of Unused Medication.

The Association **supports** the Committee's efforts in educating the public concerning the dangers of unsafe disposal of pharmaceuticals and the desire to keep pharmaceuticals out of waste water systems.

The Association **opposes** the mandate that municipal police stations serve as collections points for unwanted pharmaceuticals. This unfunded mandate would require every municipality to spend between $400 and $1,000 on collection containers; have the containers installed or otherwise secured inside the lobby of their building; and pay an unknown fee for the ultimate destruction of the collected items. The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection has already instituted a Prescription Monitoring Program and provides for the voluntary collection of pharmaceuticals in local police departments.

The Association supports the pharmaceutical collection concept however, municipalities should be allowed to decide if such a program is appropriate for their community and not face a mandate to provide this service.

The Committee must take into consideration that all police lobbies are not equal. Some lobbies are left dark and unattended at night; some lobbies serve as common areas for other town agencies; and some lobbies are not constructed in a way that is conducive to the securing or proper installation of a collection container.

There are Chiefs who are already participating in the DCP's program and there are others who are interested in participating. But the Association opposes any provision that will mandate participation.

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