



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
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February 22, 2012

Dear Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy and members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 92 An Act Concerning the Disposal and Collection of Unused Medication. This bill is important for the health and safety of our entire state. Not only are prescription medications flushed down drains every day getting into our water supply but they pose a potential risk to minors and adults who have or can potentially become addicted to them. I have enclosed a link to the most recent study done on this issue in the State of Wisconsin. (<http://www.scaoda.state.wi.us/docs/prevandspfsig/FINAL01032012CSWReport.pdf>)

The study that Wisconsin has prepared is arguably one of the most comprehensive studies to date on ways to mitigate prescription drug abuse. Among one of the many topics discussed in the 52 page document were ways to improve and implement a prescription drug give back program. One of the issues highlighted in the study, was that communities had varying methods in which the give back was conducted. Some had permanent give back boxes, some had specific collection dates, but most had no program at all. Most of the communities had no safe and secure disposal option. The study also showed that the majority of consumers had no idea how to even dispose of this medication properly at all. More information can be found between pages 20-23 in the study. For your convenience I have included a summary of what can be found as an attachment to my testimony.

The Department of Consumer Protection currently has a pilot program in 7 towns and cities with additional communities signing on daily. Those towns are Wilton, Ridgefield, Waterford, New Canaan, Greenwich, Simsbury and Shelton. Their model program is cost effective, has a limited affect on police manpower and has proven to be highly successful with the town of New Canaan disposing of 700 lbs. of unwanted/unused medications since January 1, 2012. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) currently holds drug take back days in various communities throughout the year; with an on-going collection taking place it would free their man power to do other work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Rose".

Kim Rose
State Representative