

**Carrie Rand-Anastasiades - Executive Director
Testimony Before The General Law Committee
Re: HB 5359 An Act Requiring Pharmacies to Verify the Identity of Persons
Making Telephonic Prescription Requests
March 6, 2012**

Good Morning. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies. We represent chain pharmacies around the State such as Walgreens, Stop & Shop, and PriceChopper to name a few. I am here today to testify on HB 5359 An Act Requiring Pharmacies to Verify the Identity of Persons Making Telephonic Prescription Requests.

HB 5359 requires that pharmacies verify the the identity of persons making telephone prescription requests. We as an Association feel that this is unnecessary. Today, with e-prescribing, very few prescriptions are "called" into a pharmacy. When they are, they are executed by the physician's designee, usually a registered nurse. These individuals are educated regarding pharmacology and the condition the patient is dealing with. If there is a question regarding the identity of the individual making the request, the pharmacist will call the office as a matter of course, using their professional judgement. Requiring it on each prescription is unnecessary. In addition, if the pharmacist sees a potential prescribing error based on the patient's file, they immediately call the physician's office ensure the right dosage. We feel that this would just be an additional step that would take up the pharmacist's valuable time.

In addition there is no guidance in this bill regarding documentation of of the individual making the request. Over the phone, how do we verify the identity of the person making the request? The DEA and NPI numbers of the physician are already on the prescription which should be enough for audit or investigation of their office. It is for these reasons we respectfully as you to vote NO on HB 5359.