

**Statement Before
The General Law Committee
Thursday March 6, 2012**

RE: SB 252 An Act Authorizing Flavoring Agents For Prescription Products

Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the Committee on General Law. My name is Margherita Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA) is a professional organization representing 1,000 pharmacists in the state of Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 252: An Act Authorizing Flavoring Agents for Prescription Products.

This proposed legislation would allow a pharmacist to add flavoring agents to prescription drug products upon the request of the prescribing practitioner, patient for whom the prescription is ordered, or such patient's agent. Flavoring agents as defined in this legislation are inert ingredients that have no effect on the medication itself other than to modify the flavor. Pharmacists add flavoring to prescription drugs typically for the pediatric population to make a child's medication taste better. Although adding flavoring agents is not considered compounding, a pharmacist's knowledge to effectively mix flavors properly and with the appropriate medications is well within their scope of practice.

A key benefit of allowing this proposed legislation is that it leads to better medication adherence. Often times patients, or more frequently the parents of pediatric patients, will require extra medication or an entirely different medication because their child refuses to take the prescribed one, or spits up a prescription medication, due to taste alone. Patients who do not take their medications properly may also contribute to increased healthcare costs. Pharmacists are in an ideal position to help cut these unnecessary healthcare costs by providing services to help foster good medication adherence. This proposed legislation would allow a pharmacist to aid such patients by adding a flavoring agent to make the medication more palatable and thus help to reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

In conclusion, making medications more palatable can increase adherence and cut costs associated with non-adherence. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association supports this legislation.