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**Testimony in support of S.B. 392, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Medicaid Reimbursement**  
**Human Services Committee**  
**Public Hearing 03.13.12**

**Submitted By: State Representative Jack Hennessy**  
To Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity testify in support of S.B. 392, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Medicaid. My name is State Representative Jack Hennessy.

This bill is necessary because small pharmacies throughout Connecticut took a big hit last year with the implementation of the cut in the average wholesale price of the drug (AWP). This bill will restore the AWP to last year's levels. Mail order delivery of drugs has also hurt small drug stores and has cost jobs.

Most independent pharmacies provide free delivery to the elderly, to psychiatric group homes and other at risk populations. They will also "blister pack" pharmaceuticals for group homes. They do these things at no charge. The large chains do not do this. If the small, independent drug stores go the way of the local hardware store, this will be a great loss of economic activity and decreased quality of life.

Lupe's Drugstore is close to where I live. It has been in existence since 1946. Danny Lupariello, who continues to run the family owned business, could not be here to testify, but he submitted testimony I invite you to read. I'm sure you will read in his testimony that he employes 16 local people. He has three drivers working during the day making deliveries, at no charge to his customers. His customer loyalty is tremendous. I know of people that, after moving out of town, continue to do business with Lupe's, and don't mind driving the extra miles because of the kind of service Lupe's gives their customers.

This kind of personal service is in danger as the big box chains wipe out small businesses. We've seen it happen to hardware stores. Next it may be package stores, and the small, corner drug stores.

Such stores as Lupe's Drug store provides an important "niche" service to the community that the elderly rely on. They also provide real jobs for local residents. I thank the committee for raising this bill and I hope it gets the support it deserves and gets passed into law.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Jack Hennessy