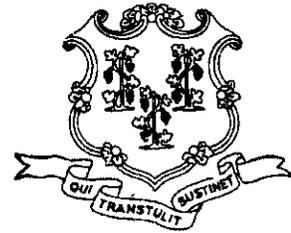


# Department of Consumer Protection



Testimony of John Gadea  
Director of Drug Control  
Department of Consumer Protection

Public Health Committee  
March 21, 2012 Public Hearing

SB 436

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter, Sen. Welch, Rep. Perillo and Honorable members of the Public Health Committee. I am John Gadea, Director of Drug Control in the Department of Consumer Protection. Thank you for the opportunity for me to submit testimony on **SB 436, "An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Monitoring."** This bill would require all practitioners who are registered as a Controlled Substance Practitioner with the Department of Consumer Protection to also take the step to register with the Prescription Monitoring Program.

DCP operates the Prescription Monitoring Program, as set forth in Sec. 21a-254 (j), however under current law there is no requirement that prescribers use, or even become aware of the existence of the program. The Prescription Monitoring Program is a computer based application designed to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better patient care and reduce controlled substance misuse, diversion and abuse. Prescribers may use the online database to access patient prescription information 24/7 to review all the controlled substance prescriptions a patient is taking as well as the frequency and dosage of each med.

This bill would require prescribers, such as MD's and other holders of a Controlled Substance Practitioner registration to register with the Prescription Monitoring Program, and thereby at least familiarize themselves with the program. This requirement would not impose a cost or fee for registering.

I hope this information is helpful to the committee. If you have any questions about these bills, or the programs of the Drug Control Division of the Department of Consumer Protection, feel free to contact me or DCP's Legislative Liaison, Gary Berner at 860-713-6208.