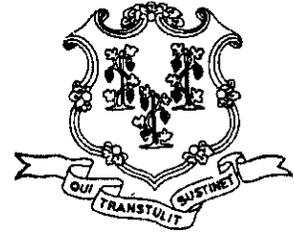


Department of Consumer Protection



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

Public Health Committee
March 21, 2012 Public Hearing

SB 424

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 **Senate Bill 424, "An Act Establishing a Pilot Program to Implement an Electronic Prescribing System and Develop a Standardized Prior Authorization Form."** Before your committee proceeds with this legislation, it is important to note that the statutory ability to allow the electronic generation, transmission and receiving of electronic prescriptions has been in place for several years under both the Pharmacy Practice Act and the Controlled Substance Act.

Regarding the issue of communicating electronically between pharmacist/pharmacy and the prescribers, this can be accomplished through a variety of permissible processes. This includes, verbally via phone, electronically, and through the State's Prescription Monitoring System.

Currently DCP's Prescription Monitoring Program is limited to being a repository of controlled substance prescriptions; although one of the future goals is to include all prescription medications in the Program which would provide physicians and pharmacists

with a complete medication picture for each patient allowing them to provide better health care.

Finally, I would note that SB 424 would place responsibility for a study of electronic prescribing within the Department of Public Health. However, under current law that responsibility and jurisdiction falls under the Department of Consumer Protection. The Department has discussed this bill with the Department of Public Health and DPH concurs that there is no need to adopt the provisions as drafted in this bill.

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.