

Statement Before
The Environment Committee
Monday
February 25, 2013

Re: HB 6439: An Act Concerning The Disposal and Collection of Unused Medication

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Margherita Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association is a professional organization representing 1000 pharmacists in the state of Connecticut. I am here today to speak to **HB 6439: An Act Concerning the Disposal and Collection of Unused Medication.**

This legislation would prohibit any health care institution from disposing of any unused medications into the waste water system. It also establishes a workgroup to develop and implement a program for the appropriate disposal of unused medications.

The Connecticut Pharmacists Association has long supported the appropriate disposal of unused medications. The rising concern with regard to Teen Drug Abuse has heightened our own awareness as a profession, and we continue to use every opportunity we can to educate the public on removing these medications from their homes. Too many of our children are dying as a result of experimenting with drugs that are in their own homes. For this and many other reasons, we are committed to educating the public on the proper disposal of these drugs.

Recently, through the activities of our Foundation, we have had pharmacists speak on talk shows regarding teen drug abuse and proper drug disposal. Next month at the NBC Health and Wellness Festival in downtown Hartford, pharmacists and pharmacy students will distribute pamphlets on proper drug disposal. And some of our pharmacists actually have worked with their towns to develop and implement drug take back days. The DEA has also been active as well by partnering with states to have National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – the next one will be held on April 27, 2013.

The Connecticut Pharmacists Association welcomes the opportunity to be part of the work group to develop and implement a program that is thoughtfully designed and minimizes the impact of costs.