

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES, INC.
NOME ASSOCIATES
195 FARMINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 200
FARMINGTON, CT 06032
PHONE 860.677.5889
FAX 860.677.5961

Testimony of Benjamin Davis
Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
SB 903 AA Increasing the Membership of the Commission of Pharmacy

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Benjamin Davis and I am a pharmacist with Walgreens. I am here to testify today on behalf of Walgreens as well as the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies, which represents chain pharmacies around the State.

For years the chain pharmacy community has had representation on the Board of Pharmacy. They, along with Drug Control, are the front line regulators of our industry. We have worked diligently with this Board to propel our industry forward and to make important changes for the good of the patients that use our healthcare services. Currently chain pharmacies fill approximately 80% of prescriptions in Connecticut. There was always a "gentleman's" agreement that the two retail positions on the Board would be filled by both business models, chain and independent. When the chain representative stepped down, under Governor Rell, she appointed a second independent retail pharmacist.

Because our business models are very different than that of an independent it is important to our community that we be represented on the Board of Pharmacy. As examples, most of our pharmacies have drive thru pick up windows, where independents do not. Many of our members are transitioning into clinic models where total healthcare needs can be met, independents are not. In addition chain pharmacies are using advanced technologies that independents may not be able to afford. Their business models, as well as our's, should be recognized with equal importance. It is for these reasons we are seeking to change the law to add a seventh member to the Board of Pharmacy and reflect positions for **chain and independent** retail representatives. We have and will continue to work diligently with those that have been appointed but feel it is of great importance chain pharmacies have a seat at the table. If you have any questions or concerns, I would be more than happy to discuss them with you. Thank you for your consideration.

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