



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, and members of the General Law Committee. I am State Representative Michelle Cook. I come before you today to speak in support of House Bill 5484, an act prohibiting generic substitutions for tamper-resistant drug formulations.

One in every three individuals will experience chronic pain in their lifetime. One of the most popular drugs over the past few years is OxyContin. This is an extended release oxycodone. This drug has become widely popular with those abusing drugs and holds a street value ranging sometimes higher than 20.00 per pill.

What you may not know is, OxyCotin, along with other narcotic type prescriptions are designed with a tamper resistant formula. This is intended to deter the abuse of this medication and makes it more difficult to be crushed, dissolved, chewed, or cut. This drug along with Embeda, has been approved for marketing. This will, in fact, eliminate the tamper resistant type formulation and make the abuse of these two medications easier to use on the black market and become even more of a problem on our streets.

15 other states have introduced legislation that would require pharmacist to obtain written consent of the prescriber in order to substitute a non-tamper resistant formulation of a product for a formulation that incorporates "tamper resistant technology". Currently the only Tamper resistant formulations are brand name products, not generic.

The FDA has not come out and taken a position on this topic. We would like Connecticut to lead the charge on this and keep our residents and streets safer.

So I am asking you to please support House Bill 5484 and continue the fight on abuse of prescription drugs and at the same time, save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.