

Statement Before
The General Law Committee
Thursday, February 7, 2013

Re: HB 5906: An Act Concerning Prescriptions For Controlled Substances And Use Of The Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System

Good Afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Marghie Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association is a professional organization representing 1,000 pharmacists in the state of Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony *in support of HB 5906: AAC. Prescriptions For Controlled Substances And Use Of The Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System*

This legislation would require any health care provider who is writing a prescription for a controlled substance to check the Prescription Monitoring Program to review any prior use of controlled substances by this patient. Assuming the intent of this legislation is to strengthen the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) as a tool for curbing prescription drug abuse, this legislation would greatly assist in closing the loop for pharmacists who fill the prescriptions.

While this legislation is well written, CPA believes that it could be modified to have this mandated when health care providers are writing a controlled substance prescription for a *new* patient, or when there is a reason to warrant a review of the patient's profile. We also believe that this task should not be delegated to any office staff that is not considered a health care provider.

Currently many pharmacists access the PMP on a regular basis to resolve any questions that might arise regarding the veracity of a prescription. The PMP is also a great tool to ensure that the pharmacist understands what the patient is being treated for and ensure best practices are being followed. We find it unfortunate that only pharmacists are utilizing this system on a regular basis. Hopefully prescribers will also begin using the PMP on a regular basis so that this important tool can be as effective as possible. Both pharmacists and prescribers can benefit not only from training on the technical aspects of the program but from learning "best practices" regarding how to address a patient that may suffer from an addiction, or what to do if diversion is suspected.