

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

Re: HB 5347: An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Labels

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 opposition of HB 5347: An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Labels*.

This legislation would require pharmacists to include both the brand name and the generic name of a drug on the prescription label. While the intent of this legislation is admirable, we are concerned about adding additional information on an already over-crowded and possibly confusing prescription drug label. This would be unnecessary for brand name products for which no generic medication is available.

This legislation would be ineffective if a patient has been prescribed two different medications in the same drug class to treat a disease. For example, if a patient is receiving the brand name Lipitor (atorvastatin) to treat high cholesterol and then is discharged from the hospital with Pravachol (pravastatin), even if the pharmacist has the brand and generic names of each drug on the label, the patient will not know that this is a duplicate alternative therapy to treat the same disease.

We are more than willing to work with the Committee to try to come up with a solution for this issue that will be the most effective strategy without causing confusion for the patient.