

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

Re: HB 6406: An Act Concerning the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

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 6406: AAC the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program*

This legislation would expand the current Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) to include non-resident pharmacies and other dispensers of controlled prescription medications. It also increases the frequency of reporting from twice monthly to weekly. Furthermore, this legislation allows the commissioner to identify additional products or substances to be included in the reporting requirements to the PMP. Additionally this legislation prohibits any person or employer from discouraging or prohibiting a prescribing practitioner or pharmacist from accessing the PMP for controlled substance information. And finally this legislation requires a registration process developed by the commissioner to access the PMP.

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is a tool used to help curb prescription drug abuse in our State. 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. CPA supports the intent of this legislation to require all entities that are dispensing controlled substance to report into the PMP. The tool is only as good as the information gathered. The more complete the information the better pharmacists and practitioners can evaluate a situation. Weekly reporting makes the data more current and again assists in evaluating prescription medication use.

Not all pharmacists have the ability to access the PMP at work due to restrictions by their employer. This legislation would prohibit employers from denying pharmacists access to this valuable tool.

Both pharmacists and prescribers can benefit from accessing this program. Ensuring patients are getting the medications they need is critical. We also have a responsibility to help a patient that may suffer from an addiction, or identify avenues for diversion if suspected.