

**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Environment,
February 25, 2013.**

Testimony in Support of:

**HB 6439 , AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION OF
UNUSED MEDICATIONS**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and honorable members of the Environment
Committee ,

My name is Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD and I am the Coordinator of the Coalition for a
Safe and Healthy Connecticut (CSHC). I am also a nurse with many years in critical
care, nursing administration and have expertise in environmental health.

I strongly support HB 6349. As a nurse, I've been deeply concerned about the lack of
safe medication collection and disposal systems. In my role with the VNA, I hear from
patients frequently that they don't know what to do with medications that are no longer
needed. Many simply flush the pharmaceuticals down the toilet thinking this is the safest
manner to get rid of them. We now know that the lack of a safe collection and disposal
system has resulted in contamination of drinking water supplies for over 41 million
Americans.

The World Health Organization reports that the ubiquitous presence of pharmaceuticals
in our waters and has indicated that more research is needed to determine the impacts on
the health of wildlife and humans. However, an easy, cost-effective plan as required in
HB 6349 will go along way to reduce exposure to pharmaceuticals. The bill provides an
easy method for citizens to dispose of unwanted drugs and provides a mechanism to keep
some harmful drugs off the streets.

HB 6349 is a reasonable, cost-effective solution to pharmaceutical waste and I urge your
support.



Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD