

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES, INC.**

**NOME ASSOCIATES**

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**Testimony Before The Public Health Committee**

**In Opposition to:**

**HB 5612 AAC Listing of Soy as an Ingredient in Food, Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Medications**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the CT Association of Community Pharmacies. We are an Association representing large pharmacies such as Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Stop & Shop and Big Y to name a few.

We are here in opposition to HB 5612 AAC Listing Soy as an Ingredient in Food, Prescription Drugs and Over-the-Counter Medications. Although we feel the bill is well intentioned, the bill is not clear where the ingredients should be listed, nor whose responsibility it is. As community pharmacists, we label each medication with the pertinent dosage, directions, patient name, and various other information necessary for the proper use of the medication. The ingredients of the medication is not something that is listed, however it is available upon request from the pharmacist. We also give information on how to contact the manufacturer of the product to get more specific details. Moreover, patients with allergies to food products or other medications are flagged in our computer systems. If a medication containing this product were to be prescribed it would trigger notification or a call to the physician asking them to rewrite the prescription.

My son is gluten free (allergy to wheat) and I feel my duty as a parent is to be judicious about what he is putting in his body. I ask to see the ingredients of each and every medication to ensure that it does not contain wheat. I feel that it should be the responsibility of the patient to take charge of their allergy and ensure that the products they are taking do not harm them. Although seeking out information is best, it has also been our experience that our pharmacist has caught errors made by the physician who prescribed an antibiotic containing gluten. Before I even arrived to pick up the incorrect medication, the pharmacist called the physician and received authorization to give a gluten free alternative. This was because my son's allergy was flagged in the computer.

We feel that because there are already safeguards in place to deal with certain allergies, this bill is not necessary. In addition, it is difficult for us to label for one allergy and not another, when each could be potentially life threatening to the patient. We feel carving out or giving special treatment to one allergy over another is bad public policy. We urge you to reject HB 5612. If you have any question regarding my testimony, please feel free to contact me.

BIG Y FOODS, INC. • GENOA HEALTHCARE • PRICE CHOPPER • RITE AID  
THE STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET COMPANY •  
WAL-MART • WALGREEN COMPANY •

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHAIN DRUG STORES