

Statement Before  
The Public Health Committee  
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

**Re: HB 6389: An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Monitoring**

Good Afternoon Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health 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 6389: AAC. Prescription Drug Monitoring*

This legislation would require any health care provider who is writing a prescription for, dispensing, distributing or administering controlled substances in the state to **obtain a certificate** of registration for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP). This legislation also would require the practitioner to **register for access** to the program. *It doesn't require that the practitioner actually review the PMP for information regarding patients they are prescribing or dispensing controlled substances for the first time.* Assuming the intent of this legislation is to strengthen the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) as a tool for curbing prescription drug abuse, this legislation doesn't address closing the loop for pharmacists who fill the prescriptions – but it is a step in the right direction.

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. It is 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.

While we support this legislation, we would ask the committee to strengthen it by having prescribers review the data collected by the PMP for new patients that they might be prescribing controlled substances for the first time.