

**ABLE CARE  
PHARMACY  
& MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

Able Care Pharmacy & Medical Supplies

In the Enfield Medical Center  
15 Palomba Drive Enfield, CT 06082  
TEL (860) 745-0183 FAX (860) 741-6503  
WWW.ABLECAREPHARMACY.COM

DARLENE ABLE, RPH

**Connecticut General Assembly Raised Bill No. 5333  
An Act Concerning The Return of Outdated Drugs  
From Pharmacies to Wholesalers, Manufacturers and Distributors\**

March 11, 2014

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Ranking Members  
& Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Darlene Able and I own and operate Able Care Pharmacy & Medical Supplies in Enfield, CT. I have been a licensed pharmacist for 33 years.

I currently utilize a "reverse distributor" to return my expiring and expired medications. A representative from this company assists my staff in identifying and removing these drugs from our inventory. Being able to return these, often very expensive drugs, guarantees the safety of my medications for dispensing.

In a recent example, a prescription required we purchase and dispense 7 tablets only from a stock bottle of 30 tablets. The dollar amount of drug that would remain on my shelf would have been \$491.00. Had this drug been produced by a manufacturer that would not accept returns, a very difficult decision would have to be made. I would have to tell my patient to look for the drug elsewhere, thereby losing business. Or in the event no pharmacy has or will stock it, work with the doctor to change the patient from the preferred therapy. Neither of these scenarios are in the best interest of the patient. If all manufacturers accepted returns this would not occur.

The vast majority of pharmaceutical manufacturers take back all of their expired medications within 6 months of the expiration date. Manufacturers want pharmacies to carry their products and have them available for patients. There are some manufacturers that do not take back outdated product. One manufacturer states they have reduced the price of their products by 1% to make up for their policy of not taking back expired medications. In the above example this still would still require me to carry \$485 of inventory. For all medications this can be up to \$10,000 per year for each pharmacy, independent or chain.

Accepting outdated drugs does not have a large financial impact on manufacturers. One solution would simply be for them to make their drugs available in smaller package sizes. This bill will guarantee the availability of needed medications in Connecticut pharmacies and ensure the fiscal stability of the community pharmacies which operate on very small profit margins.

Thank you