State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Dear Chairman Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and distinguished members of the General Law Committee.

I'm here testifying on SB-378 An Act Concerning The Collection And Disposal Of Unwanted Pharmaceuticals this is very similar to HB-5392 An Act Concerning The Disposal And Collection Of Unused Medication. I have been committed to moving this legislation forward for the past 3 years. This bill is important for the health and safety of our entire state. Not only are prescription medications flushed down drains every day getting into our water supply but they pose a potential risk to minors and adults who have or can potentially become addicted to them.

The Department of Consumer Protection currently has a pilot program in 30 cities and towns in the state and passage of this bill would allow Connecticut to be a leader in not only being a comprehensive disposal state but it would allow us to take a large step in helping to get prescription drugs out of the homes of potential abusers. Their model program is cost effective, has a limited effect on police manpower and has proven to be highly successful with the town of New Canaan disposing of 700 lbs. of unwanted/unused medications since January 1, 2012. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) currently holds drug take back days in various communities throughout the year; with an on-going collection taking place it would free their man power to do other work.

During my research on this bill I discovered that all of our state run programs currently flush their medications. For example, Southbury Training School flushes unwanted pharmaceuticals. In addition, there are many scattered state run sites that do the same. They were unable to provide me with data on the amount of medications that are flushed on an annual basis.

This bill went through the environment committee back in 2012 under SB92, the language was a result of public hearings and received bi-partisan support. I have attached a copy of the bill language as well as an amendment. Since there is already a pilot program in place it is my opinion that the agencies that are already involved be the ones to oversee this possible legislation. I respectfully request that you look at that language and consider a change. In addition, the term "bio medical facilities" makes this bill too cumbersome. Prescription drugs are not bio medical waste, there is already a bio medical disposal method in place for health care facilities that produce bio medical waste.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Rose

Kim Rose
State Representative