



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

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Testimony in Support of SB 208,
AN ACT CONCERNING PHARMACY REWARDS PROGRAMS
AND PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Fonfara, Representative Kiner, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and Members of the General Law Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Connecticut Chapter is writing to urge the General Law Committee to pass SB 208, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Rewards Programs and Protected Health Information.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. In recent years, incredible strides have been made in the availability of MS disease modifying therapies. Today there are ten therapies available for people with relapsing-remitting forms of MS. In addition to medications which slow down the disease process, Ampyra, the first symptomatic drug used to improve walking in people with all forms of MS, is available.

Individuals with MS often rely on prescription drugs to manage their disease and its symptoms. In an effort to save money, most consumers obtain pharmacy rebate/discount cards to help make purchases more affordable at pharmacies. For obvious reasons, most individuals want to keep prescription information as private as possible, and share it only with their doctors and pharmacists. Despite many individuals' desire to restrict how and with whom it is shared, prescription information can be used and disclosed in many ways.

SB 208 offers an additional level of protection for consumers. It specifies that the information that the pharmacy provides to consumers shall include a plain language summary of the terms and conditions of the program.

Please pass SB 208, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Rewards Programs and Protected Health Information.

Thank you.