

**Statement Before
General Law Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

SB 378 An Act Concerning the Collection and Disposal of Unwanted Pharmaceuticals

Good Afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Margherita Giuliano and I am both 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 testimony in opposition of **SB 378 - An Act Concerning the Collection and Disposal of Unwanted Pharmaceuticals**.

The proposed legislation addresses a very critical public health issue: the availability of prescription drugs in the medicine cabinet that become easily accessible to family members, young people, and others. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association agrees that unwanted pharmaceuticals should have an appropriate collection site. However, pharmacies are not the appropriate location. Pharmacies are meant to be a clean and in certain areas, a sterile environment. It is our fear that bringing unwanted pharmaceuticals to the pharmacy would compromise this clean environment and the regulations that are established for pharmacies. Also, there is concern that having an unwanted pharmaceutical disposal box in a pharmacy would be an attractive nuisance - possibly attracting drug abusers and thus compromising the safety of pharmacies for both employees and customers.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection currently runs a voluntary drug disposal program for police departments that has approximately 40 participants. This program is currently working well and we strongly support using this program as a model for potential expansion to other municipal departments.

We would be very interested in working with legislative committees and the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to conduct a public awareness campaign to educate the public concerning the dangers of unsafe disposal of pharmaceuticals. Since pharmacists are usually on the front line of answering question about, and advising their patients concerning unwanted medication disposal issues, pharmacists would be able to continue to help educate about the dangers of unsafe disposal of pharmaceuticals.

In conclusion, the Connecticut Pharmacists Association is in favor of having a safe and anonymous drop off for unwanted pharmaceuticals. However, we are opposed to having pharmacies be the physical collection site as it would compromise both the clean environment and safety of pharmacies.

Thank you.