To: Human Services Committee

Re: HB 6846 An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations

I am a resident of Mystic, CT and the owner of Greenville Drug Store Inc. in Norwich, CT.

The governor has proposed a reduction of reimbursement to community pharmacies from a AWP - 16% plus $1.70 to AWP -18% plus $1.40. We will not be able to continue to provide the services we provide if we have to sustain these cuts. As a matter fact, we may not be in business. This is a business in which I cannot control the costs a good, set by the manufacturers, I cannot control the reimbursement, set by the government, and I cannot control my expenses such as utilities, taxes, etc. We provide a host of services such as cycle refill, delivery and compliance packaging. These services enable our clients to remain in the community and not in institutions. Independent community pharmacy is an easy target for the government bean counters, there's absolutely nothing we can do except rely on our elected officials to help us.

Year after year I have attended committee hearings and testified on the proposed cuts of reimbursement to pharmacy. I am always told that is to say $10 million or $20 million. Every time I've asked to be shown the savings all I get is "will look into it". The cuts to reimbursement in this budget only save the state $.25 of every dollar. CMS in the pharmaceutical manufacturers will save the other $.75. I hardly think it's worth putting pharmacies out of business for $.25.

Please remove the cuts to pharmacies in the governor's proposed budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

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