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**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony on House Bill 6279 An Act Concerning
Prescription Drug Monitoring, Continuing Education And the Return Of Unused
Prescription Drugs
Public Health Committee
March 4, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today on **House Bill 6279 An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Monitoring, Continuing Education And the Return Of Unused Prescription Drugs**

CSMS is proud of its efforts working in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and members of the General Assembly to originally obtain a federal grant for the development of the prescription monitoring program (PMP), its original piloting through the efforts of several CSMS physicians and ultimately the support of the State to maintain the program. In addition, CSMS was pleased to work with the General Assembly and once again DCP to support the requirement that all prescribers register for its use when seeking or renewing a license to practice.

CSMS understands and agrees with the considerable attention already this session being given to a significant problem facing our society- opioid and controlled substance abuse. We remain committed to working with members of this committee and others as we move forward and offer the resources and expertise of our Society and its members to develop the best possible legislation to address this issue. Legislation that hopefully focuses on deterrence and a reduction of abuse as well as an increase in focus and resources provided to treatment and coverage for substance abuse and addiction.

CSMS remains committed to a strong PMP and expansive use by prescribers. CSMS supported the need for all prescribers of controlled substances to register for its use. Currently, severe civil penalties exist for failing to do so. However, we ask committee members to reject tying registration and use to licensure.

In addition, CSMS provided testimony to this committee on a similar bill to require continuing medical education (CME) for providers who prescribe controlled substances on **House Bill 5528 An Act Concerning Continuing Education for Health Care Providers Who Prescribe Narcotic Drugs**. We have attached that testimony for your review and ask that the committee not pass specific mandates requiring certain CME without the input of the physician community.