

March 4, 2015

Attn: Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee

Re: Testimony in **Support of Proposed Bill 6279 – AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION MONITORING, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THE RETURN OF UNUESED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

My name is Pamela Mautte, and I am the Director of BHcare's, Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (VSAAC). VSAAC is also an active member of the CT Prevention Network (CPN). I am writing this testimony in support of Proposed bill 6279 in which the legislation requires health care providers to utilize the prescription monitoring system, complete continuing educations courses and register as a user in the system.

As a Regional Action Council director who has been working on prescription drug and opiate issues for the past several years this legislation would strengthen the usage of the prescription monitoring program. Did you know that the U.S. consumes 99% of all hydrocodone and 80% of all opioids? In addition current trends highlight that there are a lack of prescribers who can adequately treat pain. We know that changes in brain receptors occur after the first dose of an opiate based medication. This past year, we held two opiate forums in our communities and the top recommendations from more than 100 participants at both forums included the following:

- *Support the implementation of evidence-based curricula that address prescription drug misuse and abuse for providers*
- *Utilize the prescription monitoring system & support legislation regarding prescription monitoring programs*
- *Increase the number of trainings and professional development opportunities available to law enforcement and other safety personnel*

These measures have been successful in other states and can be successful here in CT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela A. Mautte
Director