



**Testimony  
Kathryn Dube  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)  
Before the Public Health Committee  
March 18, 2015**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of **HB-6856 - AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION**. This bill offers great strides in addressing drug abuse prevention in Connecticut's communities.

The recommendations as outlined by the Governor in this bill offer the necessary tools in creating a strategy to address substance abuse problems across the state. The development of prescribing guidelines for controlled substances and pain management, the requirement of continuing education of health care providers, and the mandated utilization of the Prescription Management Program (PMP) demonstrates a comprehensive framework necessary to combat the substance abuse problems faced by many communities.

Section 6 of this bill permits pharmacists to dispense and administer opioid antagonists such as Naloxone or Narcan in the case of opioid abuse. The expansion in the availability of these drugs provides for an additional avenue for those in need. This ultimately assists communities as well as emergency responders in dealing with opioid overdoses.

COST urges your support of HB-6856 and the positive impact it will have on the drug abuse epidemic throughout Connecticut.

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns.*