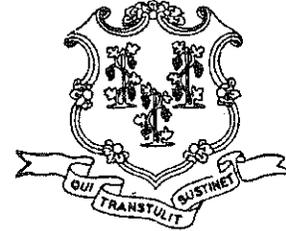


# Department of Consumer Protection



## Testimony of Jonathan A. Harris Commissioner-designee of Consumer Protection

General Law Public Hearing, February 24, 2015

Senate Bill 933, "An Act Concerning the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program."

Chairmen Leone and Baram, Ranking Members Witkos and Carter and the Honorable Members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 933, "An Act Concerning the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program."

As you know, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is a vitally important program that is administered by the Department of Consumer Protection. This tool has been utilized by pharmacists and prescribing physicians and other practitioners to reduce the incidences of drug abuse and diversion. In recent years, the program has become more widely known and we hope that the importance of this tool will have an even

greater impact in protecting the public health and the safety of our loved ones at risk of controlled substance dependence.

Although the intent of this legislation is undoubtedly good, the Department would respectfully ask the committee to advance Governor Malloy's comprehensive package instead when it reaches this committee. Governor Malloy's recently introduced legislative package includes legislation to combat substance abuse and opioid overdoses while it strengthens requirements for use of the Prescription Monitoring Program. House Bill 6856, "An Act Concerning Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention" contains these provisions and more, and I believe provides the comprehensive framework to make a difference in the lives of our friends, neighbors and loved ones. As such, I would respectfully ask the committee to advance HB 6856 when it reaches this committee rather than SB933, despite its very good intentions.

Thank you for your consideration. The Department stands ready to work with you and all interested parties as we tackle this most important issue.

Please feel free to contact me or DCP's Legislative Program Manager, Gary Berner if you have any questions or comments.