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H.B. No. 5301

“AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ANALGESIC PRESCRIPTIONS ISSUED TO MINORS”

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Senator Martin, and Representative Kokoruda, thank you for considering H.B. 5301 *“An Act Concerning Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions Issued To Minors.”*

For the record, I am State Representative Roberta Willis, representing the 64th District.

Thank you to the Children’s Committee for raising this needed legislation to address the increased use and abuse of opioids.

The incident of people suffering from heroin abuse and addiction to pain killers has become a national conversation. The rate of deaths occurring nationally, in our state, in our cities and small towns is staggering. In fact, the Hartford Courant had a report that showed that towns I represent have some of the highest per capita death rates in the state. Not a statistic I want to boast.

Many view the epidemic as a health crisis and I agree. We must treat it as such. There is no one fix to this problem. *No quick fix.* While we need efforts to increase access to drug treatment programs and to

prevent drug overdoses, we must also do more to prevent people from becoming addicted to opioids and heroin in the first place. Education is key to prevention.

The bill before this committee today is only one measure we need to take to tackle this epidemic.

Addressing the protection of children is a good place to start. The prescribing rate for prescription opioids among adolescents has more than doubled in the past ten years.

This proposal would require doctors to obtain consent before prescribing opiates to a child. This is to insure that children and their parents are educated on the risks associated with opioids. This bill will help fight Connecticut's prescription drug epidemic by educating and informing parents and minors of the dangers of addictive medications. It is quite natural for parents and children to perceive that what is being prescribed by a healthcare professional is safe and beneficial. And it may be needed, but parents should be given the opportunity to be informed and decide if it is the right thing for their child.

Attached to my testimony is the Consent Form for Prescribing Opioids to minors that are being used in the State of Ohio after they passed a similar law. It is called *Start Talking*. It is clear and concise. It insures that the risks associated with the medicine were discussed.

I would like to thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Start Talking!



Consent Form for Prescribing Opioids to Minors

Patient Name:
Date of birth:

Prescription name & quantity:
Number of refills:

The prescribed drug is a controlled substance containing an opioid. This means the medication has been identified by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration as having a potential for abuse, dependence or misuse.

I certify that I have discussed the following with the minor patient and the patient's parent, guardian or authorized adult:

- (a) The risks of addiction and overdose associated with a controlled substance containing an opioid;
- (b) The increased risk of addiction to controlled substances of individuals suffering from both mental and substance abuse disorders;
- (c) The dangers of taking controlled substances containing opioids with benzodiazepines, alcohol or other central nervous system depressants;
- (d) Any other information in the patient counseling information section of the labeling for the medication required by Federal law.

Signature of prescriber Date

Parent/Guardian Date

Adult Authorized to Consent to Minor's Treatment* Date

*An adult to whom a minor's parent or guardian has given written authorization to consent to the minor's medical treatment. The prescription must be limited to not more than a single 72-hour supply if the person consenting to treatment is an adult authorized to consent to a minor's treatment. See, Section 3719.061, Ohio Revised Code.

See the Start Talking! website for tips on talking to kids about drugs
StartTalking.ohio.gov

Patient Name
Date of Birth or
Medical Record Number